Bengaluru Wednesday, November 5, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 305 ₹7

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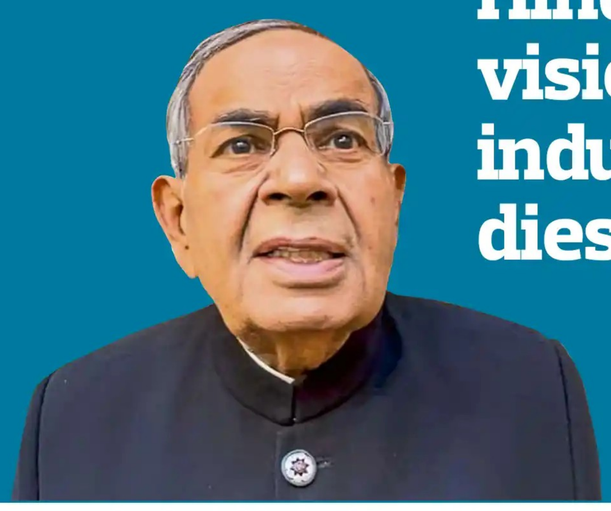
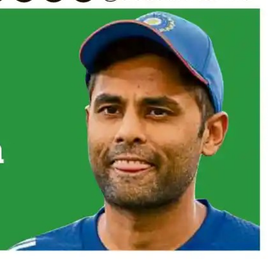


Gopichand Hinduja, visionary industrialist, dies at 85

Page 14

Sports

Asia Cup tensions: Pak's Rauf gets two-match ban; Surya fined P.16



World

Former US vice president Dick Cheney dies at 84 P.13

Nation

Five IITs, IISc among top 100 in Asia P.10

Business

IndiGo posts Rs 2,582 crore net loss in Q2 P.14

Quickly

Former minister H Y Meti dies

Hullappa Yamanappa Meti, the Bagalkot Congress MLA and a longtime loyalist of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, died on Tuesday afternoon aged 80. His last rites will be performed will full state honours at Bagalkot on Wednesday. Meti, an influential Kuruba leader in north Karnataka, first became an MLA in 1989.

Details on Page 4

TN sexual assault accused held

After a day-long manhunt and examining visuals from nearly 300 CCTV cameras, the Coimbatore police arrested three labourers for allegedly abducting and sexually assaulting a college student after thrashing her boyfriend on Sunday night. All three suspects were shot in the legs when they "attempted to escape" after a police team encircled them near Vellakinaru in Coimbatore district at around 11 pm on Monday night.

Details on Page 11

Partial relief for WhatsApp from NCLAT

In a partial relief to WhatsApp, the appellate tribunal NCLAT on Tuesday set aside a section of a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order that had banned the instant messaging app from sharing data with Meta Platforms for advertising purposes for five years, but retained a Rs 213-crore penalty on the social media platform.

Details on Page 14

Farmer sets self on fire in Mandya

A farmer attempted suicide by self-immolation in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Mandya on Tuesday. M D Manjegowda (55) set himself on fire alleging that he has not received compensation for the land that was acquired. He has been admitted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru with 60% burns and is battling for his life.

Details on Page 5

Debt recovery: Mallya moves HC over interest

Liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Tuesday requested the Karnataka HC to direct banks to stop charging interest on amounts already recovered. The banks said recoveries remained temporary till Mallya submitted to the court jurisdiction.

Details on Page 5

Close fight on cards as campaign ends for phase 1

121 seats, including Tejashwi's Raghopur, will go to polls on Thursday in Bihar

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a roadshow in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

Rahul Gandhi addresses a rally at Pakaha village in Aurangabad. PTI

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

- The battle for Bihar started with a triangular contest - NDA, the I.N.D.I.A bloc and Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj. But turned into a direct fight between NDA and I.N.D.I.A
- During the 2020 polls, both the NDA and the Mahagatbandhan got **37% votes** each, with a meagre difference of **0.03%.** A similar situation is emerging this time
- JD(U) is suspicious of BJP as much as the BJP is suspicious of the JD(U). The **Mahagatbandhan,** too, is facing war within
- The trend since 2010 shows that women have rooted for Nitish for his welfare schemes. But this time **Tejashwi too has promised the moon**

BIHAR VOTES

The high-voltage campaign for the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections ended on Tuesday evening, with all signs pointing to another nailbiter.

Up for grabs are 121 seats in the first phase, which includes Raghopur, where RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is contesting, on Thursday while the rest 122 will go to polls on November 11. The counting of votes will be on November 14.

The campaign saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar stoke fears of the return of 'jungle raj' under the RJD. On the other side, the I.N.D.I.A bloc is looking to lure voters disenchanted with Nitish with promises that include 'one government job per family'.

So, will it be I.N.D.I.A or NDA? There are four reasons why the contest will be a close fight.

Direct contest

The battle for Bihar started with a triangular contest between the NDA, the I.N.D.I.A bloc and Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj. Within a month, it turned into a direct fight between the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Kishor, who has worked with all the top politicians, could not draw a proper strategy for his newbie outfit. And the day PK (as Kishor is popularly known) opted out of the poll fray, his Jan Suraaj lost the battle even before it could start.

Electoral math

Second, and the most important factor, is electoral math. During the 2020 Assembly polls, both the NDA and the Mahagatbandhan got 37% votes each, with a meagre difference of 0.03%. In terms of votes, it was 12,700.

But this miniscule difference in votes resulted in the NDA bagging 125 seats, while the Mahagatbandhan was restricted to 110, although Tejashwi's RJD emerged the single largest party in the 243-member House.

A similar situation is emerging this time.

▸ Bihar, Page 6
More reports on Page 7

8 killed in Chhattisgarh train accident

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Eight people were killed and 14 injured after a passenger train collided with a goods train from behind near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

The collision took place around 4 pm when the MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) was heading to Bilaspur from Gevra in neighbouring Korba district, railway officials said, adding it crashed into the goods train from behind between Gatora and Bilaspur stations.

The Railway Board said the accident took place as the passenger train seems to have overshot a red signal.

Details on Page 10

The train that collided with a goods train near Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. PTI

Bring street vendors under food safety rules, says HC

Court asks Centre to categorise eateries into small, medium & large

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government to bring in health and safety standard regulations for all street vendors and food trucks, and create a mechanism for vigil over its strict implementation, noting that an "effective and meaningful segregation" is required.

It also directed the Centre to divide the guidelines under the regulations into small, medium and large restaurants to implement the regulations.

"...segregation must ensue so that standards of food and health are maintained at every rung of consumption, be it in a large restaurant, small restaurant, food trucks or even vending in the street," Justice M Nagaprasanna said while disposing of the petition filed by the Karnataka Pradesh Hotel and Restaurants Association and Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association.

> From humble roadside stalls, to the modern food trucks or uber restaurants, the spirit of Indian cuisine thrives. However, the Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses Regulations, 2011 draw their lines of demarcation upon annual turnover.
>
> **Justice M Nagaprasanna**

The petitioners had moved the court in 2012 challenging the March 13, 2012, communication issued by the Commissionarate of Health and Family Welfare Services, Bengaluru.

The communication cited the Centre's direction to states to implement rules and regulations, which are framed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). This mandates every food business operator to either get a licence or registration to carry on their business.

The petitioners sought directions to declare a few of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the regulations as unconstitutional. They also allege impracticability of implementation of the regulations.

On the other hand, H Shashi Bhushan, Deputy Solicitor General of India, submitted that food safety and standards that form part of the Act are all based on international legislation, instrumentality like the Codex.

The court examined the food safety practices and legislation followed by various countries across the world and noted that food safety has become an inescapable pillar of public governance.

"If a similar food safety regime is followed all over the world, it cannot be said that the petitioners or their members would not follow it," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

▸ HC, Page 6

CM: Sandur to get skill varsity, 3 million youths to be skilled by 2032

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced the setting up of a new Skill University at Sandur in Ballari district.

Speaking after inaugurating the three-day Bengaluru Skill Summit organised by the department of Skill Development and Livelihood, Siddaramaiah stressed the need for a dedicated university for skills in the state and said, "Every year, more than 33,000 youths get trained at industrial training institutes (ITIs) and government toolroom training centres (GTTCs)."

"There is a need for a dedicated university for skills and we will establish one soon with the aim to make Karnataka a state for skills," he added.

Assuring industry leaders that Karnataka will produce an industry-ready workforce, Siddaramaiah said, "We will equip this generation with the right skills, mindset and confidence. We have set goals to skill three million youths by 2032 and to strengthen global placement linkages."

"We will deepen our partnerships with industries, integrate skills into every stage of education and build a culture of lifelong learning so that every Kannadiga is job-ready, entrepreneur-ready, and future-ready," the CM said.

He added that over 60% of the state's population was below the age of 35 and that nearly 1.2 crore young people will enter the workforce in the next decade.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity," the CM said.

▸ Skill, Page 6

Mortgaged agri land sold, bank caught unawares

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Several agricultural plots mortgaged to a top public sector bank have been sold, partitioned and gifted without intimation or closure of loans, prompting the government to look into these "irregularities" that may point to a bigger fraud involving farmlands.

Canara Bank, one of India's largest public sector lenders, has approached the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) about "irregularities" in 276 agriculture loan accounts across its Mangaluru, Hubballi and Manipal circles.

Irregularities include sale of mortgaged agricultural land, partition in favour of a legal heir and transfer of ownership through gift deeds --all without the bank's knowledge or closure of the liability. SLBC has asked the revenue department for "suitable intervention".

Canara Bank has said that agriculture loans date back to 2005–06 "all of which have turned non-performing assets". The fact that mortgaged lands were sold even as the bank had the original documents has baffled authorities.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said he would get details on how the "irregularities" transpired.

▸ Bank, Page 6

GOLDEN GLOW

An illuminated Bangla Sahib Gurdwara on the eve of the birth anniversary of founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Major Northeast parties combine to form new political outfit

AMRITA MADHUKALYA & SUMIR KARMAKAR
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI, DHNS

Politics in the country's Northeast took a new turn with major local parties on Tuesday announcing a consolidated political outfit.

The Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP), Pradyot Debbarma-led Tipra Motha and Daniel Langthasa's People's Party said that they will merge into a political party to raise a "strong, united voice" over issues concerning the region. Key among the issues, said Sangma, is land rights in the Sixth Schedule areas.

NPP and Tipra Motha are NDA partners and are allies of the BJP in Meghalaya and Tripura, respectively. NPP leads the Meghalaya government with Conrad as the CM while BJP is a minor partner. Tipra Motha is part of the BJP-led government in Tripura with 13 MLAs in the House of 60.

Mmhonlumo Kikon, Conrad Sangma, Pradyot Debbarma and Daniel Langthasa after the merger announcement in New Delhi on Tuesday.

"We have decided to merge as a united singular political entity under one name and one logo. We will now reach out to other regional parties in the Northeast with a request to come on board so that we can strongly raise our voice on common issues together," Sangma told reporters in New Delhi, where a joint resolution was adopted on Tuesday.

▸ Northeast, Page 6

NEW REPORT

High on AI? Recruiters may check your 'AI-free' skills soon

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots are now available for everyday use, and that too for free. People across different age groups use AI assistants for various queries - right from preparing resumes, writing emails, to generating videos, PowerPoint presentations and coding. Soon, recruiters will end up assessing candidates for their 'AI-free' skills.

Organisations are expanding their use of Generative AI, and in another year, hiring practices will begin to differentiate sharply "between candidates who can think independently and those who lean too heavily on machine-generated output," according to Gartner.

This means recruitment will focus more on the ability of candidates to demonstrate problem-solving, evidence valuation and judgment without AI assistance.

"Through 2026, atrophy of critical-thinking skills, due to GenAI use, will push 50% of the global organisations to require 'AI-free' skills assessments," the American research and advisory firm said in its top predictions for IT organisations and users in 2026 and Beyond. "This shift will lengthen hiring processes and intensify competition for talent with proven cognitive capabilities. In high-stakes industries, such as finance, healthcare, and law, the scarcity of such talent will raise acquisition costs and force companies to develop new sourcing and assessment strategies."

In order to differentiate between AI work and AI-free work, specialised testing tools and platforms will be designed that can create a secondary market for AI-free evaluation tools and services.

Somdutta Singh, Serial Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO, Assiduus Global, said she sees both opportunity and responsibility. AI and agents will transform the way we work, but what matters is how we shape that transformation.

▸ AI-free, Page 6

Gartner predictions

- Hiring practices will begin to differentiate between candidates who can think independently and those who lean heavily on AI
- This means recruitment will focus more on candidates' ability to demonstrate problem-solving and judgment without AI assistance
- To differentiate between AI work and AI-free work, specialised testing tools and platforms will be designed

> Technology should push us to think better, not think less. The idea of AI-free assessments is interesting. We should build systems that strengthen human reasoning, not isolate it
>
> **Somdutta Singh,** Founder and CEO, Assiduus Global

4 Kuki insurgents killed in Manipur 'encounter' with security forces

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Security forces in Manipur on Tuesday said four cadres of United Kuki National Army, an armed group, died during an encounter in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district.

But the group, in a statement later, claimed that the four were killed when they were asleep at Khanpi village.

A statement issued by Army on Tuesday said the incident took place when the Army and Assam Rifles team came under attack during a combing operations.

Details on Page 10

Eco-Watch: Artists & scientists unite to save Western Ghats

BENGALURU, DHNS: The urgent need to conserve the Western Ghats will be the focus of a national conference and art exhibition organised by Eco-Watch in Bengaluru this month.

The initiative aims to blend science and art to highlight the region's ecological and aesthetic value, the press release stated.

The five-day painting exhibition, showcasing the spectacular beauty and environmental harmony of the Ghats, will open on Thursday at Chitrakala Parishath.

Renowned artists, including SG Vasudev, Rekha Rao Hebbar, and Chandranath Acharya, will participate. The inaugural event will feature celebrated writer Jayant Kaikini and filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli.

The main conference on Monday will bring together eminent scientists and environmentalists, including Prof MD Subhash Chandran (Ecological Scientist, IISc), Dr BR Ramesh (French Institute of Pondicherry), and environmentalist Pandurang Hegde.

They will discuss the ecological integrity and conservation of the Western Ghats.

Tejasvi Surya seeks answers from DKS on tunnel road plan

Says only four-wheelers are allowed to ply through road

BENGALURU, DHNS

Continuing his criticism of the proposed tunnel road project, Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya on Tuesday posed several questions to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, seeking clarity on various aspects of the project.

Among the key concerns raised was the potential for an economic divide, as only four-wheelers would be permitted on the tunnel road.

"Are two-wheeler owners not citizens whose taxes will fund the tunnel's construction? Is this not a clear case of economic divide?" Surya asked.

Citing data, he pointed out that only 19% of vehicles in Bengaluru are four-wheelers, questioning whether government policy should cater to such a small segment of commuters.

Drawing a comparison with the Namma Metro project, Surya questioned the rationale behind prioritising the tunnel road, which he described as "40 times less efficient".

"The state government is providing Rs 7,500 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the project — nearly the same as the cost of the 19-km Yellow Line, built at Rs 7,610 crore. While the Yellow Line serves around 80,000–90,000 passengers daily and will expand with new coaches, the tunnel road will cater to just about 19% of the city's population. Logically speaking, which solution should be prioritised?" he said.

> "Are two-wheeler owners not citizens whose taxes will fund the tunnel's construction? Is this not a clear case of economic divide?
> **LS TEJASVI SURYA,** MP, Bangalore South

Surya also sought answers regarding the project's alignment and questioned the absence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Other issues he highlighted include the expected travel time savings, project completion timeline, and the possibility of new traffic choke points emerging as a result of the project.

Foreign national held for drug peddling; cocaine, MDMA worth Rs 75 lakh seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bandepalya police have arrested a Nigerian national for allegedly peddling drugs and seized narcotics worth Rs 75 lakh from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Chibugo Godwin, 45, a native of Nigeria, police said.

According to investigators, acting on a tip-off, the Bandepalya police apprehended Godwin near Somasandrapalya Lake on October 30.

"During interrogation, the suspect revealed that he had come to India in 2018 on a business visa and was initially engaged in the garment trade in Delhi. About three months ago, he moved to Bengaluru and began living with an acquaintance," the police said in a statement.

Investigations revealed that Godwin purchased MDMA tablets and cocaine at low rates from an unidentified source and sold them at higher prices to college students and other buyers.

Police recovered 752 grams of MDMA tablets, 8.37 grams of cocaine powder, and one two-wheeler used by the accused for distribution.

The total value of the seized drugs is estimated at Rs 75 lakh. Godwin was produced before the court on October 31 and remanded in judicial custody, police added.

City to host national meet on reuse of treated wastewater

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru will host a two-day national conference on the reuse of treated wastewater on Thursday and Friday.

The workshop, convened by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Government of Karnataka and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), will bring together senior officials, policy experts, and industry leaders from across the country.

The conference aims to develop a national strategy for sustainable water reuse.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said the event seeks to chart a comprehensive roadmap to make wastewater reuse an integral part of India's water security framework.

"Bengaluru is being showcased as a national model for circular water management, with 90% of treated sewage reused for lake rejuvenation, urban landscaping, and industrial purposes. The city has turned wastewater into an asset that enhances sustainability and resilience," he said.

As part of the conference, delegates will visit two BWSSB projects — the Cubbon Park STP, which supplies tertiary-treated water to the Vidhana Soudha and nearby government offices, and the KC Valley STP, which channels treated water to replenish tanks and groundwater in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Malleswaram's Kadalekai Parishe to go plastic-free this year

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 9th Kadalekai Parishe in Malleswaram, to be held from November 8 to 10 near the Kadu Malleswara Temple, will be completely plastic-free this year.

The annual fair, organised by Kadu Malleswara Geleyara Balaga, will be inaugurated by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

The organisers are setting up over 400 stalls for farmers and street vendors free of cost. To promote eco-friendly practices, the association will collect plastic bags from vendors and customers and replace them with newspaper or cloth bags.

"We, along with our partners, have prepared around 1.4 lakh paper and newspaper bags for both vendors and consumers. Volunteers have been advised to raise awareness about avoiding plastic," said BK Shivaram, president of Kadu Malleswara Geleyara Balaga.

BK Shivaram, president of Kadu Malleswara Geleyara Balaga, and others with groundnut pushcarts at the venue on Tuesday. PHOTO: KADU MALLESHWARA GELEYARA BALAGA

A vending machine will also be installed to collect used plastic bottles — anyone depositing two bottles can get either a bag or one rupee in return, Shivaram added.

The Parishe will feature cultural events, including the 225th edition of Hunnime Haadu, a music programme, on November 10. The concert will feature a joint performance by percussionist Karthik Mani and German-based musician Magnus Dovner.

E-toilets and ambulances will also be available throughout the three-day event.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Inter-college sports meet: KC Veeranna to inaugurate; Srinivas P and HM Jayaprakash to be present; Dairy Science College Grounds, Hebbal; 9 am.

School opening: Calvary Chapel Trust; Padma Basavanthappa and Srinivas G to participate; Trust campus, Kanakapura Road; 11.30 am.

Book launch: 'Neerina Hejje'; Written by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar; Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Law Minister H K Patil to take part; Organised by Water Resources Department; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Ward No 6'; Directed by Mime Ramesh; Organised by Ranga Payana; Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 6 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.2°C
Minimum	19.6°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	66%
Sunset (Nov 5)	6:52 pm
Sunrise (Nov 6)	6:14 am
Moonrise	4:47 am
Moonset	4:41 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y-E-29-2025-26/60 Dated : 27.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	(Re-tender)	Rs. 1,29,15,926/-

Additional High Mast at station yards over Mysuru division.
Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 17.11.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/ Mysuru
PUB/596/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

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: support@deccanherald.co.in

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (JUIDCO) LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail Id - pdt.juidco@gmail.com , juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
National Competitive Bidding
Modified Tender Notice
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RB/OM/675 Date: 03/11/2025

1.	Name of the work	RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi
2.	Tender Fee & EMD Amount (In INR)	• Cost of Tender Document: 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) • EMD Amount: 5,00,000/- (Rs Five Lakh Only)
3.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
4.	Date of starting of sale of online Tender	03/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
5.	Date & Time of pre-bid meeting	10/11/2025 at 12:30 Hrs
6.	Last Date/Time for submission of bids	17/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
7.	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD Online	17/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
8.	Date of Bid Opening	18/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
9.	Tender fee submission address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited (JUIDCO), JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
10.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 6512225878

Further details are available on the Jharkhand Government e-procurement website http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in
Sd/-Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi
PR 365299 (Urban Development and Housing)25-26*D

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Jharkhand Ranchi -834002
Letter No.-kha.up.ni.-24/Chini-04/2024-**1782** Date : 31-10-2025
Corrigendum Notice
Last date of Bid submission for GeM Bid Number – GEM/2025/B/6804598 Dated:17-10-2025, Selection of Bidders for Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As Per FSSAI Norms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 through e-tender followed by e-Reverse Auction on GeM Platform.
Bid End Date/Time Amended as follows :-

Sl No.	Existing last date and time of bid submission	Extended date and time	Bid opening date and time
1	01-11-2025 at 18:00 hrs	05-11-2025 at 18:00 hrs.	05-11-2025 at 18:30 hrs.

All others term and conditions/clauses published by PR No. 364478 bearing letter No- 1754 dated – 17-10-2025 shall remain same.
PR 365250 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(25-26)#D
Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs

JHARKHAND ZOO AUTHORITY
BHAGAWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL PARK, ORMANJHI, RANCHI
Email Id- jharkhandzooauthority@gmail.com, Phone No. 9470590737
Corrigendum – I **Date:**04/11/2025
for Hiring of Consulting firm for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Bid Documents, Assistance in Bid Process Management, and Monitoring & Supervision for Development of Modern Zoos at Giridih and Dumka, Jharkhand (Bid Reference No. 01/2025 **Dt.:** 24/09/2025) **(PR No.** – 362815)
Critical Dates for the above-mentioned activity is being modified due to some administrative reasons. The new dates are as under :

	Existing Dates	New/Modified Dates
Last Date and Time for submission of Technical & Financial Proposals.	15:30 hours of 08/11/2025	12:30 hours of 22/11/2025
Date and Time for opening of Technical proposals	16:00 hours of 08/11/2025	13:00 hours of 22/11/2025

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
PR 365271 (Jharkhand Zoo Authority)25-26*D
Sd/- Member Secretary Jharkhand Zoo Authority

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of The President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Name of Work with its Locality:** S&T work in connection with "Tikekarwadi-PROPOSED COACHING MAINTENANCE DEPOT Phase-I" in Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Approx. Cost of the Work:** ₹6,91,00,189.95. **Cost of Tender Form:** NIL. **Earnest Money to be Deposited:** ₹4,95,500/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender : 25/11/2025** after **15.30** Hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
DRM(S&T) Solapur
E-Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-22 Date: 03/11/2025
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे Sai/SUR/69

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/II/Garden Reach invites e-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tender will be closed at 12:00 hrs. on due date: **e-Tender Notice No.: 4586-GRC-CE-C-II-19-2025**; **Brief Description of Works :** Yard Remodeling of Sini and Kandra Station in connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Sini-Kandra Station in Chakradharpur Division of S. E. Railway; **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 74.27 Crore; **Bid Security:** ₹ 38,63,700.00; **Completion period:** 24 months; **Closing Date :** 27.11.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **NB:** "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders." **(PR-803)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SWR_COA_09_Stn_SBC Dated : 28.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approximate Value Rs.
Provision of COA at Kuppam, Baiyyappanahalli, Whitefield, Channapatna, Hindupur, Krishnarajapuram, Kolar, Tumakuru and Dharmapuri stations in Bengaluru Division and integrating the same with datalogger for automatic feeding of train arrival/ departure timings.	Rs. 65,23,192.06/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 19.11.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Bengaluru
PUB/597/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client, TTP Technologies Private Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, is engaged inter alia in the business of manufacture, sale, and export of transformer radiators. Client has obtained registration for the designs of the said radiators from the Office of the Patents, Government of India, which are valid and subsisting as of date.
Being the registered proprietor of the designs, our client has exclusive rights to use the designs, as well as to any associated tools and methods directly related to those designs and to obtain relief in respect of infringement of the aforesaid designs under the provisions of the Designs Act, 2000.
It has come to our client's notice that Mr. B. S. Sathyaraj, Sole Proprietor of M/s. Vishvashilpi Industries, who formerly manufactured tools for our client's radiators, is manufacturing the very same tools based on our client's designs and selling to third parties, which clearly infringes our client's intellectual property rights.
In this regard, the members of trade and public are hereby cautioned and notified that purchasing the said tools or transacting with the aforementioned persons in relation to the said tools will also amount to an infringement of our client's intellectual-property rights.
Our client alone is entitled to use the aforesaid designs and the methods related thereto or authorize others to use them pursuant to a licensing agreement to such effect. Usage of client's designs without valid authorization by our client by any person(s), will amount to violation of our client's statutory as well as common law rights and such person will be liable to be proceeded against under law.
KING & PARTRIDGE ADVOCATES
No. 48, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
BENGALURU, DATE: 05.11.2025

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Name of Work: A)**TWR work in KWV-SEI block section from Km 384.0 to Km 390.6 under ADEN/LUR Sub-Division in SUR Division. **B)** TWR work in KWV-SEI block section from Km 393.0 to Km 399.6 under ADEN/LUR Sub-Division in SUR Division. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 27843015.49. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 289200/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months. **Last Date & Time of Uploading Quoted Tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 10/11/2025 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in** 10/11/2025 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**
DRM (Works) Solapur.
E-Tender Notice No.: 36-2025-SrDENC
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे Sai/SUR/60

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP(CMG)
ISRO Headquarters, Antariksh Bhavan,
New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560 094.
Ph: 080-22172476/2479/2033 Fax No.: 080-2351 3126
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

Title of Work	**Annual Maintenance Service Contract for Operation & Maintenance of Electrical Installations at ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan & E1 type Quarter, RT Nagar and Operation of Lifts at ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru.**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/E/AMC/01/P/AB/ 2025-26 dated 04.11.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 109.02 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**Twelve (12) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From **18:10 hrs on 04.11.2025** To: **23:59 hrs on 20.11.2025**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**up to 11:00 hrs on 24.11.2025**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**12:00 hrs on 24.11.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,18,040/-**[Valid for 180 days]

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi/ English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on website **https://isro.gov.in/tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO**. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Head, CMD, ISRO HQ

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, BUILDING DIVISION, DALTONGANJ
SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION
Tender Ref. No.-15/E.E.,BCD/Building Div. Daltonganj/2025-26
Sealed Quotation are invited for the Work

Sl.No	Name of Work	Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Cost of BOQ	Time of Completion
1	Construction of Three Modular OT at Medinirai Medical College & Hospital (Sadar), Palamu.	2,01,83,400.00	10,000.00	Six Months

By the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department , Building Division, Daltonganj Sale of Quotation Paper will be on 18.11.2025 upto 1:00 Pm, quotation Paper received on dated 19.11.20205 at 3:00 Pm and will be opened on 19.11.2025 at 3:30 Pm at B.C.D, Division, Daltonganj by Executive Engineer or his authorized representative in the presence of Quotationers or their authorized representative, whosoever desire may remain present at the time of opening. Cost of Bid for Work in Shape of Demand draft (Non Refundable) from any State Bank Payable at SBI Main Branch, Daltonganj (Code-0000061)/any Schedule Bank, Payable in favour of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Daltonganj.
The Quotation Should be accompanied with (1) Initial Security Deposit which will be 2% of the quoted amount in shape of Bank Guarantee or 5 Year/3 Years Post Office Term Deposit or N.S.C (8th issue) fixed deposits of a scheduled Bank duly pledged in favour of executive Engineer, Building Division, Daltonganj (2) Updated Income Tax Return and GST Return (3) PAN Card (4) Quotation Having Similar Nature of Work Experience . (5) The Bidder Must submitted specified Manufacture for Medical equipment authrisation letter issued from Original Equipment manufacturer (OEM). (6) The firm must be a registered firm in the trade of maintaining of Modular OT. (7) Full Service Facility and Service Centre must be located at Daltonganj, District.
In the Case of Gazetted holiday the quotation will be received/opened on the next working day.
नोट :– कोटेशन की शर्तें http://www.jharkhand.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखी जा सकती है।
PR 365289 Building (25-26)_D
Executive Engineer, Building Division, Daltonganj

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER KATIHAR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/ Engg./64 of 2025; dated: 01-11-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work:** At Katihar Division - AMC for track based lubricator (Hydraulic type) for 02 years with service and maintenance including spare parts. Tender Value: ₹16,13,560.00; Bid Security: ₹32,300.00. **Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work:** Katihar: Block Section Aluabari Road - Gunjaria Construction of RUB at KM 58/1-2 at unauthorized Pedestrian crossing under the jurisdiction of SSE/Works/ Kishanganj. Tender Value: ₹4,91,54,382.51; Bid Security: ₹3,95,800.00. **Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work:** Repairs to Embankment and other ancillary works from Rangapani Base yard under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III/Katihar. Tender Value: ₹3,15,01,761.27; Bid Security: ₹3,07,500.00. **Tender No.4. Brief Description of Work: (A)** BG CTR (S) between Rangapani - BPMS siding under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III/KIR. (Grand total= 13.5 Km). **(B)** BG TTR(P) of the Existing 90R (loose heel) 1 in 8.5 by 52 Kg 1 in 8.5 F/S on PSC sleeper at BPMS siding under the Jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III/ Katihar. (Total =6 Sets, with sleeper). Tender Value: ₹5,91,14,259.05; Bid Security: ₹4,45,600.00. E-tenders will be **closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 28-11-2025 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 28-11-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 28-11-2025 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.
DRM (Works), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल
कमांक:–विशा / स्टोर / 2025–25(383), दिनांक–30.10.2025
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धिपत्र
विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना कमांक **SB/Store/2025-25 (321), Dated-01.10.2025** द्वारा **Training Room** के क्रय हेतु. ई–निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण के **समय सारणी** में आंशिक संशोधन के संबंध में **"शुद्धिपत्र" (Corrigendum)** जारी किया गया है जो website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर विभाग की वेबसाईट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
अतिरिक्त पुलिस अधीक्षक, (प्रशासन), वि.शा. पु.मु. भोपाल
G-20965/25

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come.
St Jude worker of miracles pray for us.
St. Jude helper of the helpless pray for us.
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Miscreants use fake website of Kollur temple to cheat devotees

UDUPI, DHNS: A case has been registered after unidentified persons allegedly created a fake website in the name of the Sri Mookambika Temple to cheat devotees collecting money for bogus room bookings.

According to a complaint filed by Prashanth Kumar Shetty, Executive Officer, Sri Mookambika Temple, the temple's official accommodation website is http://karnatakatemplesaccommodation.com

However, some miscreants illegally created an unauthorised duplicate website under the name 'Karnataka Temple Accommodation' with the intent of making unlawful profits.

The accused allegedly misled several devotees by offering room reservations at the Lalithambika Guest House through the fake website. They reportedly received payments via PhonePe QR codes shared over WhatsApp, issued fake receipts, and cheated devotees seeking accommodation at the temple.

Vice President to visit Shravanabelagola on Nov 9

SHRAVANABELAGOLA (HASSAN DIST), DHNS: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan will take part in the installation ceremony of Padmacharya Shantisagara Muni Maharaj's statue, and unveil the name of fourth hillock, at Shravanabelagola in Hassan district, on November 9, said Jain seer Swastishree Abhinava Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swami. The event commemorates the centenary year of Shantisagar Maharaja's visit to the place, who was present at the Mahamastakabhisheka of Lord Bahubali in 1925.

Civil society flags 'brutalisation' of Honnavar villagers for opposing port

Activist Medha Patkar releases fact-finding report

BENGALURU, DHNSS

A fact-finding report detailing the plight of the fisherfolk being displaced for building a port in Karwar's Honnavar has accused the government of unleashing police brutality on the community with activist Medha Patkar joining the civil society on Tuesday to urge the government to follow the law.

The project proposed by Honnavar Port Private Limited involves two separate works: Construction of a port and a road to connect the port to national highway 66. The works will come up on the land belonging to five fishing villages: Kasarkod Tonka 1 and 2, Pavinkurva, Mallukurva and Honnavar rural.

Medha spoke after fisherfolk shared the "atrocities" they faced. "The report has to be seen in the context of the present development paradigm. Honnavar port is just another project which erodes livelihood of common people, in this case a women-centred livelihood, and benefits rich corporates," she said.

She said an erroneous study was done to show that there were no turtles to make way for the project. "The road is located between high tide line and low tide line and is not permitted by law," the activist said.

The fact-finding report is the second and latest attempt by the civil society to document the "more recent human rights violations," including police brutality, registration of false cases and attempts to silence the fisherfolk trying to save their livelihood. Civil society had previously documented the lapses in procedures adopted to give environment, forest clearances. It had also documented the 'disturbing trend' of governmental and corporate disregard.

Activist Medha Patkar takes part in a programme to release a fact-finding report on Honnavar port project, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

A major part of the new report focuses on events surrounding the Feb 25 protest by fisherfolk against the survey of their homes to make way for the proposed road. The report documents the plight of Ganapati Tandel and Rekha Tandel named in the FIR registered for the events on Feb 25 though they were not even present in the village. In fact, they had gone to meet the CM.

"We met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to submit a letter to him, asking for cancelling the proposed port. But we have been maliciously charged for offences of conspiracy, rioting and unlawful assembly," he said.

G H Suleiman, another resident, said police brutally beat up a young man. Phones of residents were confiscated and many were made to delete videos.

Aishwarya R of People's Union for Civil Liberties said about 25 cases had been registered against people in the village. The report includes an "error" by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management. It said there were no olive ridley turtles on the beach, she said.

"But the survey was done in August though "nesting typically occurs between Oct & April", she added.

Bengaluru joins global coalition to beat extreme heat

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after the Lancet Countdown report stated that India lost $373 million worth of labour capacity in 2024 due to heat stress, three Indian cities -- Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Mumbai -- joined a global coalition of 33 cities to address extreme heat.

The Cool Cities Accelerator programme was announced on the first day of the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The initiative brings together 33 founding cities from every region of the world, including Austin, Boston, Buenos Aires, Freetown, London, Nairobi, Phoenix, Paris, Singapore and others.

The programme will provide a science-based practical framework for cities to take immediate and long-term action. From early warning systems to improving building standards and expanding tree cover, the programme seeks to improve conditions in the next five years.

Deaths caused by extreme heat are preventable. They occur when individuals, elderly, workers and other vulnerable persons are not adequately protected during periods of heatwaves.

In a press release, C40 Cities Executive Director Mark Watts noted that extreme heat was a silent killer.

"The number of days that major capitals experience temperatures above 35°C has increased 54% over the past twenty years. By aligning with the UN Secretary-General's call to action on extreme heat, these cities are helping to set a global standard for what bold, collective climate leadership looks like," he said, referring to the 33 cities in the programme.

Mangalore University admits to misuse of Rs 7 cr RUSA funds

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Mangalore University has admitted to the misuse of funds released under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA-1) by the Central government for construction of boys and girls hostels.

In a reply to the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), the university authorities said that the utilisation certificate submitted to the government was false.

As per the institutional development plan of the university, Rs 7 crore was released for the construction of the boys and girls hostels. But, in reality no construction activities were taking place which was revealed during the visit of the expert committee, constituted by the KSHEC for inspection of the utilisation of the funds. The fund was provided between 2013 and 2017 under RUSA-1. The University, in total, had received Rs 20 crore for the project.

During the visit, the expert committee was shocked to see no hostel buildings constructed on the campus.

Even when the committee demanded the authorities to produce documents, they tried to mislead the committee by saying the funds were diverted for construction of an international hostel. Interestingly, in the utilisation certificate submitted to the Higher Education Department, the university had claimed that it had constructed two hostels, one for boys and one for girls.

The matter was placed before the State Project Director (SPD) meeting, headed by the principal secretary of the Higher Education department, and following the decision, a show cause notice was issued to the university authorities. The Higher Education Council recommended recovery of the funds misused by the university and also to impose penalties.

As explained by the officials of the department, the funds released under the RUSA should be utilised only to the purpose for which it is allocated. In RUSA funds, 60% share is from the Centre and 40% from the state. RUSA 1 was between 2013 and 2017. The Higher Education institutions and universities were asked to submit the utilisation certificate soon after the completion of the projects for which the funds were allocated. Of the Rs 7 crore released for Mangalore University, Rs 3.5 crore was for construction of boys hostel and Rs 3.5 crore for girls hostel.

24 injured in Ilkal rabid dog attack

ILKAL (BAGALKOTE DISTRICT), DHNS: A rabid dog bit at least 24 people in Ilkal town of Bagalkot district. The attack spree began on Monday morning. The dog attacked children, women, residents of fire service staff quarters and a security guard of hotel on the outskirts of the town. Of the 24 injured, 19 are treated at government hospital in the town while five who sustained grievous injuries are admitted at a private hospital in Bagalkot. The fire service personnel caught the dog finally.

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PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF LOCAL BANK OFFICER IN JMG SCALE - I

Name of the Post	Vacancies	Age (as on 01.07.2025)	Mandatory Qualification/ Language Proficiency/ Experience
Local Bank Officer (LBO)	750	Min.: 20 Max.: 30	**Graduate** (as on 23.11.2025) in any discipline from a University/ Institution recognized/approved by Government of India or its regulatory bodies. **Language Proficiency** (reading, writing & speaking) in specified local language of the state for which application is being made. **Minimum one-year post - qualification work experience in Clerical/ Officer Cadre** in any Scheduled Commercial Bank or Regional Rural Bank listed in Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, amended from time to time

Applications have to be submitted only in online mode from **03.11.2025 to 23.11.2025.** For more details and submission of online application, kindly visit the Bank's website under Recruitment link: **https://pnb.bank.in/recruitments.aspx**
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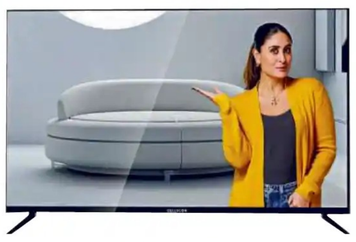
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REST OF KARNATAKA: DODDABALLAPUR: Talulk Office Road, **Ph: 99000 46923. HOSAKOTE:** Next to Chemmanur, **Ph: 91081 57999. KOLAR:** Opp Honda, **Ph: 99001 09852. RAMANAGARA:** Near Izoor P Stn., **Ph: 99000 98795. TUMKUR:** Opp. SIT, Batwadi, **Ph: 91086 71999. TIPTUR:** BH Road, **Ph:** 91081 38999. **CHITRADURGA:** Vasavi Mahal Road, **Ph: 99722 78761. CHELLAKERE** Opp. KSRTC Bus Stand. **Ph: 99721 97481 HIRIYUR:** Near Taluka Office, **Ph: 99028 26470. SHIVAMOGGA:** MR Complex, Next to Deepak Petrol Pump, **Ph: 99000 12728. KADUR:** Bhandari Com,plex, Opp.. LIC of India, **Ph: 99002 19111. HASSAN:** Next to Unity Scans, **Ph: 99000 32414. MYSORE: KUVEMUNAGAR:** Opp. NalPak Hotel, **Ph: 82967 72073. VIJAYANAGAR:** Opp. Bata Showroom, **Ph: 76195 55538. DR. RAJKUMAR ROAD:** Triveni Circle, Old RTO, **Ph: 99000 09681, MANDYA:** Vidyanagar, Near Vijaya Bank, **Ph: 99001 17360**
LG BEST SHOPS: BANGALORE: BANASHANKARI, Ph: 99000 29309. HRBR LAYOUT, Ph: 95133 05557. MATHIKERE, Ph: 91484 50663. NAGARBHAVI, Ph: 99725 97043. PEENYA, Ph: 99000 12439. RAMA MURTHY NAGAR, Ph: 99000 29310. SAHAKAR NAGAR (NXT TO HYUNDAI SHOWROOM), Ph: 95133 05559. MYSORE: Kuvempunagar, **Ph: 99000 18328.**
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Sales executive beaten to death by in-laws; wife among accused

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 36-year-old sales executive with a telecom company was allegedly beaten to death by his wife and her family members over a domestic dispute in Kadugondanahalli. Police arrested three of the accused soon after the incident came to light.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammed Shakeel, a resident of AMC Road in KG Halli.

Mohammed Shakeel

Shakeel had been married to Raziya Sultan for 12 years, and the couple had two sons. Due to marital discord, they had filed for divorce, which was pending before a family court.

A senior police officer said that around 4.30 pm on November 2, Shakeel and his father, Mohammed Samiuddin, a tailor, visited Raziya's brother's flat near Bilal Mosque to discuss the divorce settlement. During the discussion, Samiuddin reportedly demanded a final settlement so that his son could move on with his life.

The demand allegedly enraged Raziya's family members, leading to a heated argument. Raziya's brothers then attacked Shakeel, hitting him with helmets. He collapsed and died on the spot due to severe head injuries.

Samiuddin later lodged a complaint with the KG Halli police.

Police have registered a case of murder against Jabiulla Khan (A1), Imran Khan (A2), Raziya Sultan (A3), Fayaz Khan (A4), and Mubeena Taj (A5). Jabiulla, Imran, and Fayaz have been arrested, while efforts are on to trace the remaining accused, a senior police officer said.

Suburban rly project to get double-decker at Mathikere

1.2-km flyover to cost Rs 150 cr; fresh bids to finish works on C2

BENGALURU, DHNS

After Namma Metro, it's now the turn of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) to feature a double-decker.

Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprise Limited (Bi-RIDE) will build a 1.2-km road-cum-suburban railway flyover at Mathikere, officials said.

This double-decker will be part of the Lottegollahalli-Yeshwanthpur section of the BSRP's 25.01-km Mallige Line, which will connect Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara.

Authorities had decided to build the double-decker following a request from the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) earlier this year. In the double-decker, the suburban railway track will be built above the flyover.

BI-RIDE is a special purpose vehicle of the Railway Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka (K-RIDE).

While K-RIDE awarded the flyover work under a variation order to L&T Ltd as part of the Mallige Line contract, the company did not take it up and later terminated the original contract itself.

"The BBMP wanted a double-decker to accommodate road traffic and agreed to fund it for Rs 150 crore. We awarded the flyover work to L&T as a variation in the original contract. We have retained it in the fresh tenders," K-RIDE Managing Director Govinda Reddy told *DH*.

According to another senior K-RIDE official, the double-decker will be built close to the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee flyover, which runs across the railway track, and will not be demolished.

A view of the suburban railway project work at Hebbal.
DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Work on the Mallige Line, as well as the Kanaka Line (Heelalige-Rajanukunte, 46.88 km), has stalled since March following a dispute with L&T Ltd, the contractor.

The company terminated its viaduct contract for both lines in July and demanded Rs 505 crore in claims. Overall progress is just 18.5%.

On Tuesday, BI-RIDE invited tenders in three packages to complete the Mallige Line's pending work.

- **Package 1:** A 7.795-km Rail Over Rail (ROR) viaduct between Benniganahalli and Shettihalli, including the double-decker, a double-decker station at Mathikere, balance works at Benniganahalli station. Deadline: 24 months.
- **Package 2:** An 11.59-km at-grade section from Benniganahalli to Banaswadi and Banaswadi to Hebbal, including station boxes at Nagavara and Kanakanagar. Deadline: 18 months.
- **Package 3:** A 5.8-km at-grade section between Yeshwanthpur and Chikkabanavara and a 185-metre-long elevated track. Deadline: 18 months.

The new contractor will also have to conduct stability checks of works undertaken by L&T. The three packages will eliminate eight level-crossings.

With January 5 the last date to submit the bids, Reddy said they were hopeful of finalising the contractor by early February.

According to him, nearly all railway land is now available for the Mallige Line. "We have cleared all encroachments from railway land," he stated.

Notified slum dwellers, he noted, will be paid shifting charges and building valuation within two weeks as per the rules.

Only 18 private properties need to be acquired. "A preliminary notification has been issued and we aim to get possession by December end. By the time we award the contract, we will have all the land," Reddy added.

Tenders for the Kanaka Line will be called after two months.

"On this line, most of the railway land is in our possession. Private properties are also being acquired. We aim to wrap up the process in six months," he added.

Correct anomalies and rationalise fares: MP to Namma Metro

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore South MP, LS Tejasvi Surya, on Tuesday urged Namma Metro to take immediate corrective action to rectify the "anomalies" and rationalise its fares.

In a letter to BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar, he pointed out major issues which, if addressed, would correct the fares and ensure logical and affordable pricing for commuters.

In February, the BMRCL increased its fares by 51.55% on average before discounts and by 46.39% after discounts. The maximum hike is 71.43%.

Surya reiterated that the recommended formula to calculate the fare hike clearly requires the use of 2017–18 as the base year, as that is when the last fare hike came into effect, as against 2016-17 adopted by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) report.

He also flagged "miscalculation" by the BMRCL in taking incorrect maintenance and administration expenses of 2017-18 and dividing them by the route kilometres of 2017-18 (42.3 km).

"...BMRCL has erred in calculating the percentage increase of maintenance and administration in its proposal for a revised fare. It is, therefore, imperative that the BMRCL focuses on rectifying the fare anomalies and reducing fares, rather than shifting the onus elsewhere," he stated. "As a result of these errors, the BMRCL has presented the percentage change in maintenance and administration costs as 366%, whereas the actual change is approximately 110-118.5%."

Out of the total 4,624 fare station-to-station combinations, 2,302, or 49.8%, have seen fare increase by over 50%. This constitutes a majority share of the journeys undertaken by commuters. Most common routes have witnessed a fare increase beyond the average of 51.55%, he noted. Indeed, BMRCL projects a 71.49 % increase (Rs 750 crore) in fare revenue in 2025-26 after the fare hike.

Varthur station assault: Home Minister seeks report; 3 cops suspended

Case deals with illegal detention of domestic worker

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said he has directed the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to submit a detailed report on the alleged illegal detention and assault of a domestic worker by Varthur police personnel.

"The incident has come to my notice. I have sought a report from City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh. Once the report is received, appropriate action will be taken against officers found guilty," Parameshwara told reporters.

Parameshwara

K Parashuram, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), said that the ACP, Marathahalli, had conducted an inquiry and submitted a report confirming the incident. Based on the findings, three members of the staff — Sanjay Rathod, Santosh Kudari and Archana — have been suspended. They allegedly assaulted the domestic worker on the first floor of the police station.

Recently, DG&IGP MA Saleem issued a circular directing police personnel to act with dignity and sensitivity while dealing with the public, especially women.

On Monday, the Karnataka State Commission for Women (KSCW) also sought a report from the DCP (Whitefield) on the assault incident.

The incident

On October 30, Priyanka Jhanwal filed a complaint at the Varthur police station alleging that her housemaid, Sundari Bibi, had stolen a diamond ring.

PSI Mounesh Doddamani registered a Non-Cognizable Report (NCR) in connection with the complaint before leaving the station.

Later that day, Bibi, a native of West Bengal, and her husband were allegedly detained and beaten by police personnel after being accused of theft. She alleged that seven officers — four men and three women — assaulted her inside the station.

"I pleaded my innocence, but they kept hitting me with lathis and called me a Bangladeshi," she said, claiming that her husband was also beaten when he stepped in and tried to defend her.

Their cries for help reportedly drew the attention of nearby migrant workers, who informed a city-based social activist.

The police later released Bibi, who was unable to walk due to her injuries. She was taken to Bowring Hospital, where doctors recorded multiple bruises and registered a medico-legal case (MLC).

Bellandur inspector suspended after grieving father reveals police harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bellandur Police Inspector Ramesh Rotty has been suspended for dereliction of duty in connection with an alleged bribery case after a retired Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shared a distressing account of harassment following his daughter's death.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Tuesday said Rotty was suspended for lapses and negligence after allegations surfaced that his station staff demanded a bribe from a grieving father to hand over copies of the Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and post-mortem report.

Earlier, Police Sub-Inspector Santosh and Constable Goraknath of the Bellandur police station were suspended after the victim, Sivakumar K, alleged that an officer demanded money soon after the death of his only daughter.

The action followed an inquiry conducted by senior officers from the Whitefield Police Division.

Sivakumar, in a LinkedIn post, had detailed his ordeal a month after losing his 34-year-old daughter, Akshaya Sivakumar — an IIT-Madras and IIM-Ahmedabad alumnus who died of a brain haemorrhage on September 18. He wrote that he wanted to "share with everyone the state of affairs when one loses their dear one", describing the corruption and apathy he faced from multiple agencies.

Though the post was later deleted under alleged pressure, screenshots continued to circulate widely on social media, triggering outrage and prompting swift departmental action.

Father thanks B'luru police after son's killers get life term

BENGALURU, DHNS

An advocate from Patna, Bihar, on Tuesday thanked the Bengaluru city police after a local court convicted two men for murdering his 26-year-old son.

Kaushalendra Pandey, the victim's father, said the verdict was delivered on his son's birthday.

"The court sentenced both accused to rigorous life imprisonment and fined them Rs 10,000 each. I thank the judiciary and Bengaluru police for delivering justice," he said.

Siddarth K Pandey, an MBA graduate who owned a hotel in JP Nagar, was murdered in the early hours of June 26, 2018, within the MICO Layout police station limits.

Siddarth and his friends were heading towards Electronics City and had stopped their car to wait for the others following on a bike.

While he went to attend nature's call by the roadside, two men on a two-wheeler brushed past him with the bike's mirror.

When Siddarth told them in Hindi to "look ahead and ride", they took offence, abused him, and attacked him with a blunt weapon before fleeing.

He succumbed to his injuries four days later.

Based on a complaint, MICO Layout police arrested Girish, 21, and Mahesh, 19.

Investigating officer RM Ajay conducted a detailed probe and filed the charge sheet before the Additional City Civil and Sessions Court, which convicted the duo, police said.

Man held for sexually harassing TV actress on Facebook

BENGALURU, DHNS: Annapoorneshwari Nagar police on Monday arrested a man for allegedly sexually harassing a television actress by sending obscene messages and videos via Facebook.

A senior police officer said the accused, Naveen K, a resident of Whitefield, used the Facebook ID 'Naveenz'. The victim, who has acted in Kannada and Telugu serials, had been receiving lewd messages for the past three months.

Naveen initially sent her a friend request, which she ignored, but he later began sending obscene messages through Messenger. Despite repeated warnings from the actress, he continued to send vulgar messages and videos, including explicit clips showing his private parts.

After she blocked his account, he created multiple fake profiles and continued the harassment.

The actress finally decided to meet him near a hotel in Nagarabhavi on November 1 to warn him, but he resumed the same behaviour. She then approached the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police, who arrested him based on her complaint and sent him to judicial custody.

A screen grab of the accident spot near Pemmanahalli village in Nelamangala taluk.

Speeding truck kills dancer inspecting broken-down car

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old dancer, Sudhindra, known for his appearances on several reality shows, died in a road accident near Pemmanahalli village in Nelamangala taluk, Bangalore Rural district, early Tuesday morning.

Sudhindra

Dobbspet traffic police said Sudhindra was on his way back from his brother's house when his car developed a mechanical issue. He had parked it on the roadside and stepped out to inspect the problem when a speeding truck rammed into him from behind.

The impact was so severe that the truck's rear wheel reportedly ran over his body, killing him instantly.

The driver, identified as Vedakumar, was detained soon after the incident. Police suspect he may have been drowsy while driving.

Raghavendra, Sudhindra's brother, said that his sibling had bought a new Suzuki Eeco car just a day earlier and had visited the family to show it to them.

"He took us for a ride and then left. Ten minutes later, he called saying his car had broken down near the Pemmanahalli bridge. Before I could reach, a truck had crashed into his car and run him over.

"We immediately took him to the hospital, where he died," he said.

Police have registered a case under Section 106 (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and are investigating whether driver fatigue led to the accident.

Two arrested for cheating people with '0% interest gold loan'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police arrested two men for cheating people by offering gold loans at zero percent interest, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused, Salaam and Ajith, ran a jewellery shop in Vidyaranyapura and advertised '0% interest gold loans'. Believing the claim, several customers pledged their jewellery and availed loans.

"They were given only 50–60% of the actual value of the pledged gold and were told not to redeem it for 11 months. During this period, the accused sold the pledged gold to another jewellery shop in HRBR Layout, earning a profit of 40–50%. Around 4 kg of gold was misappropriated. After 11 months, they closed the shop and absconded," police said.

Two weeks ago, one suspect was arrested from his Peenya residence. Following interrogation, police recovered 1.478 kg of gold ornaments and 5 kg of silver articles illegally pledged in HRBR Layout.

"The seized property is valued around Rs 1.80 crore. Preliminary investigation shows similar frauds were committed in Mangaluru and Kerala," police added.

They also cautioned the public to verify the licence and credibility of financial firms before pledging gold and to report any suspicious '0% interest loan' schemes to the nearest police station or CCB Economic Offences Wing.

Fake godmen dupe public with 'money multiplying ritual'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Halasuru Gate police have arrested 10 people for cheating the public with a "money multiplying ritual" and submitting tampered Rs 2,000 notes to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The accused — Mohan K, Shreenivasa Murthy, Raju, Basavaraj, Munishamappa, Mallikarjun, Ramakrishna, Pally Muralidhar, Ramachandra, and Mubarak — were arrested from different parts of Bengaluru and Andhra Pradesh.

On October 17, the manager of RBI lodged a complaint that Rs 2,000 denomination notes, already withdrawn from circulation, had been altered by changing serial numbers and submitted to the bank.

Police traced the depositor, who had submitted Rs 40,000 in altered notes. During questioning, he said he received the cash from two acquaintances for a commission. Further arrests revealed that the accused had circulated Rs 8 lakh in withdrawn Rs 2,000 notes, transferring the equivalent amount to other accounts.

"They confessed to cheating the public by claiming that performing a special ritual (puja) with Rs 2,000 notes — except those in the 'O', 'OO', 'OP', and 'OU' series of 2018 — would multiply their money and bring a 'rain of cash'. The accused collected withdrawn notes from the public under this pretext," police said.

Basavaraj, Mallikarjun, and Mohan would pose as holy men conducting rituals near ponds or lakes, while Mubarak helped alter serial numbers and printed years on the notes. Police have seized equipment used for the forgery. "In total, Rs 18 lakh worth of Rs 2,000 notes were seized. One woman suspect is absconding," police added.

PREP BEFORE THE TREK

Over 50 and trekking? Experts suggest training, health checks

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The recent death of a 58-year-old professor from Maharashtra, who suffered a stroke and fell off a cliff during a trek, has raised concerns about the safety of trekkers aged over 50.

Organisations that host treks often rely on the Treadmill Test (TMT) — a basic cardiovascular stress test — to assess participants' fitness.

Veteran trekker Vasumathi Srinivasan, with over four decades of experience, said the Karnataka Mountaineers Association now mandates four months of training and at least three shorter treks before attempting high-intensity routes. "Many people drop out, and we reject several after assessing their condition," she said.

Private organiser Bharath K said they take extra precautions for trekkers over 50. "Fitness is a major concern, especially among people over 45 who suddenly want to try challenging trails. We now ask for HbA1C (a blood test to measure average blood sugar) reports to check for diabetes," he said. "Despite precautions, collapses still occur due to heart conditions and heat strokes."

Organisers also note that women in their early 50s tend to face more difficulties than men.

Nikhil Kumar, another trek organiser, said, "In the past three years, I have seen several women in their 50s experience knee pain and chest discomfort. We carry oxygen cylinders and first aid, but lack of fitness remains a challenge even among younger participants."

Senior trekker Shamala Padhmanabhan stressed that thorough preparation and realistic self-assessment are crucial. "Preparation is essential for people of any age before a trek. One should not push their body beyond its limits — it is not a race. They should end the trek if they are facing difficulties," she said.

Cardiologist Dr Deepak Padmanabhan said the TMT provides only a general idea of heart function and may miss early-stage blockages. "It's not fully reliable for high-altitude treks," he said, advising trekkers to carry prescribed medicines for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, or angina, along with a first-aid kit, aspirin (if advised), and inhalers.

Checklist for trekkers over 50 years

- Get a full cardiac evaluation: ECG (electrocardiogram), echocardiogram, cholesterol, and blood sugar tests.
- Keep blood pressure, diabetes, and issues related to sleep apnea under control.
- Seek cardiologist clearance if chest pain or breathlessness has occurred earlier.
- Watch for fatigue, dizziness, or chest tightness.
- Build stamina with daily walks or stair climbs four to six weeks before the trek; avoid rapid altitude gain and schedule rest.

Painting expo, conference to focus on Western Ghats conservation

The Western Ghats, spread across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, have long been declared as one of the global mega-biodiversity hotspots of the world. This calls for special care to protect and sustain their fragile ecosystem. These are the only source of food, water, medicine, timber, fodder, minerals etc, sustaining nearly 40 crore people across the south Indian peninsula, dependent on them.

Eco-Watch and Krupa Nidhi Group of Institutions together are organising 'Eco Drive' a painting exhibition on November 6, 2025 and a national conference on November 10, 2025, at Chitra Kala Parishath. The painting exhibition will bring alive the natural and cultural heritage of the Western Ghats along with the varied land and people-scape. Nearly 65 artists from the south Indian states will be participating in the exhibition.

Geethapriya, actor and co-founder, Krupanidhi Group of Institutions (left) and Suresh Heblikar, actor and environmentalist, address a press conference on Eco Drive

DH Eco Drive

The national conference will comprise a wide range of discussions and deliberations by subject experts from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa and Maharashtra. The key objective is to compile suggestions and alternatives by experts on the need to protect this fragile ecosystem through sustainable development approaches. The recommendations will be submitted to the state and central governments for necessary action.

The programme is aimed at sensitising institutions, researchers, development agencies, industries, corporates and the general public. It is also focused on influencing decision, policy and lawmakers to bring in drastic changes in implementing rules and regulations that can help preserve and protect the Western Ghats.

For details call: 99021 19649.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Heavy rains, limestone deposits causing tremors in KK: Scientists

'Pore fluid pressure in fissures push rocks apart, allowing stressed faults to slip'

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS:

Frequent moderate tremors have created panic among people of districts in Kalyana Karnataka.

Scientists have attributed this to heavy rainfall in limestone areas as one of the main reasons, increasing the pore fluid pressure in underground fissures and fault lines.

This pressure acts like a hydraulic jack, pushing rocks apart and allowing critically stressed faults to slip, causing moderate magnitude earthquakes.

Kalaburagi and Bidar districts have witnessed four moderate tremors in the last two weeks.

The region is known for its hot and arid conditions due to extensive limestone deposits. Districts like Kalaburagi, Bidar and Yadgir have major repositories of high-grade limestone.

Scientists at the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said these districts witnessed heavy rainfall and floods this year leading, to large and rapid increase in the amount of water stored underground, significantly raising the water table and hydraulic head within rocks.

The pressure provides the push to trigger a rupture and earthquake, they said.

Increase of water storage in major reservoirs like Almatti, Narayanapura across Krishna river and several barrages across Bhima river, due to excess rainfall, resulted in groundwater recharge.

So, the water pressure beneath the earth causes mild earthquakes up to a magnitude of 3 on Richter scale. The tremors are accompanied by a loud, rumbling sound.

Stone quarrying activities in Sindagi and other parts of the region are another reason, scientists said. They said several districts of Kalyana Karnataka had witnessed similar tremors in 2016, when heavy rainfall devastated the region.

KSNDMC director M S Diwakar said the exact reason for the tremors cannot be correlated with any factors at this juncture and directions will be given to scientists of the centre to conduct thorough study.

KSNDMC scientists said people need not panic as the region falls under seismic zone II, wherein the possibility of damage due to earthquake is very less.

"I will get a report from scientists after the study," he said.

Seismic zone II

Two mild earthquakes, epicentered 4.5 km west of Mudnal village in Humnabad taluk of Bidar district and 2.5 km northwest of Hallikhed (K) in Humnabad taluk, were reported in the morning hours of October 30 and 31.

KSNDMC scientists said people need not panic as the region falls under seismic zone II, wherein the possibility of damage due to earthquake is very less. Also, the epicenter is void of structural discontinuities as per tectonic map. There is the highest risk of earthquake and destruction only in seismic zone-5 areas, they said.

Mines and deology department deputy director Somashekhar M said he had written to the district administration to form an expert team to conduct a study.

'No need to panic'

"Limestone is primarily composed of calcium carbonate and there will be a reaction if these deposits encounter with water, resulting in heavy sound due to tremors. People need not panic as intensity is low and not destructive. However, people should avoid living in old and dilapidated homes, schools as there are chances of building collapse," he said.

HC upholds conviction of man, parents in dowry death case

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Dharwad bench of the high court has upheld the conviction and sentence imposed upon a man and his parents in a dowry death case. Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav also directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Belagavi, to quantify the total compensation payable to the minor child of the deceased woman under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

The appellants; Raju and his parents Appasab Ghend and mother Laxmibai challenged the conviction and sentence to seven years imprisonment. They were found guilty for offences under IPC sections 304B, 498A of IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

Raju and the victim Seema got married on November 8, 2011, and the couple had a male child. It is alleged that Raju's family started exerting pressure upon Seema to bring half tola of gold and Rs 50,000 cash from her parents. The in-laws also threatened Seema that Raju will marry another woman if their demand is not met. Unable to bear the constant harassment, Seema ended her life by hanging at her matrimonial house on May 6, 2013.

On January 12, 2016, the sessions court convicted them. The appellants argued that the trial court had relied upon the evidence deposed by Seema's family members, who are basically interested witnesses. It was contended that the deceased was not interested in marrying and that she ended her life because she was suffering from stomach ache.

"The evidence of mother, brother and father cannot be discarded merely on the ground that they are interested witnesses. There is no uniform rule to discard the evidence of the witnesses who happen to be the family members of the deceased. The witnesses are consistent that the evidence of a witness who is an elderly person would also corroborate such a version," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav noted.

The court further noted from the evidence that there was a meeting of the elders, along with Seema's parents, at the house of the accused and time was sought to arrange the money. The deceased was brought from her parents' house and left at the in-law's house only after this meeting, the court observed.

"In light of the death within eight days of leaving her in the in-laws' house which was preceded by demands for dowry, it could be stated that the cruelty/harassment by the accused was soon before her death," the court said.

The court directed that Rs 3 lakh deposit made by the accused as part of bail conditions, should be treated as part of compensation payable to the son of the deceased while further directing th DLSA, Belagavi, to quantify the total compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme. It directed appellants, who are on bail, to surrender before the trial court to serve the sentence imposed upon them.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY-PROFESSORS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up posts of **Teaching Faculty positions** at **Shillong Medical College, Shillong** under the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Vacancies exist for the following posts across various disciplines as per National Medical Commission Teachers' Eligibility Qualifications (TEQ) Regulations, 2025:

Department	Professors	Associate Professors
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3. Pharmacology	1	Nil
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5. Microbiology	Nil	1
6. Forensic Medicine	1	Nil
7. General Surgery	1	Nil
8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Nil

Terms and Conditions

1. **Nature of Appointment:** The appointments shall be made on a **contractual basis**, initially for a period of **one year**, extendable based on performance and requirement of the College.
2. **Remuneration:**
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3. **Eligibility:** Candidates must possess the requisite qualifications and teaching experience as prescribed by the *National Medical Commission (NMC)*, TEQ 2025 or as amended from time to time. A proven record of academic excellence, clinical competence, and research experience will be essential.
4. **Mode of Application:** Eligible and interested candidates may submit their applications by **email to:** shgmedicalcollege@gmail.com
5. **Last Date for Submission:** The online application window shall remain open **till 20th November 2025, up to 5:00 PM**.
6. **Further Details:** Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, terms of engagement, and selection procedures is available on the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department: https://meghealth.gov.in

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department

MIPR No.: 2058
Dated : 04/11/2025

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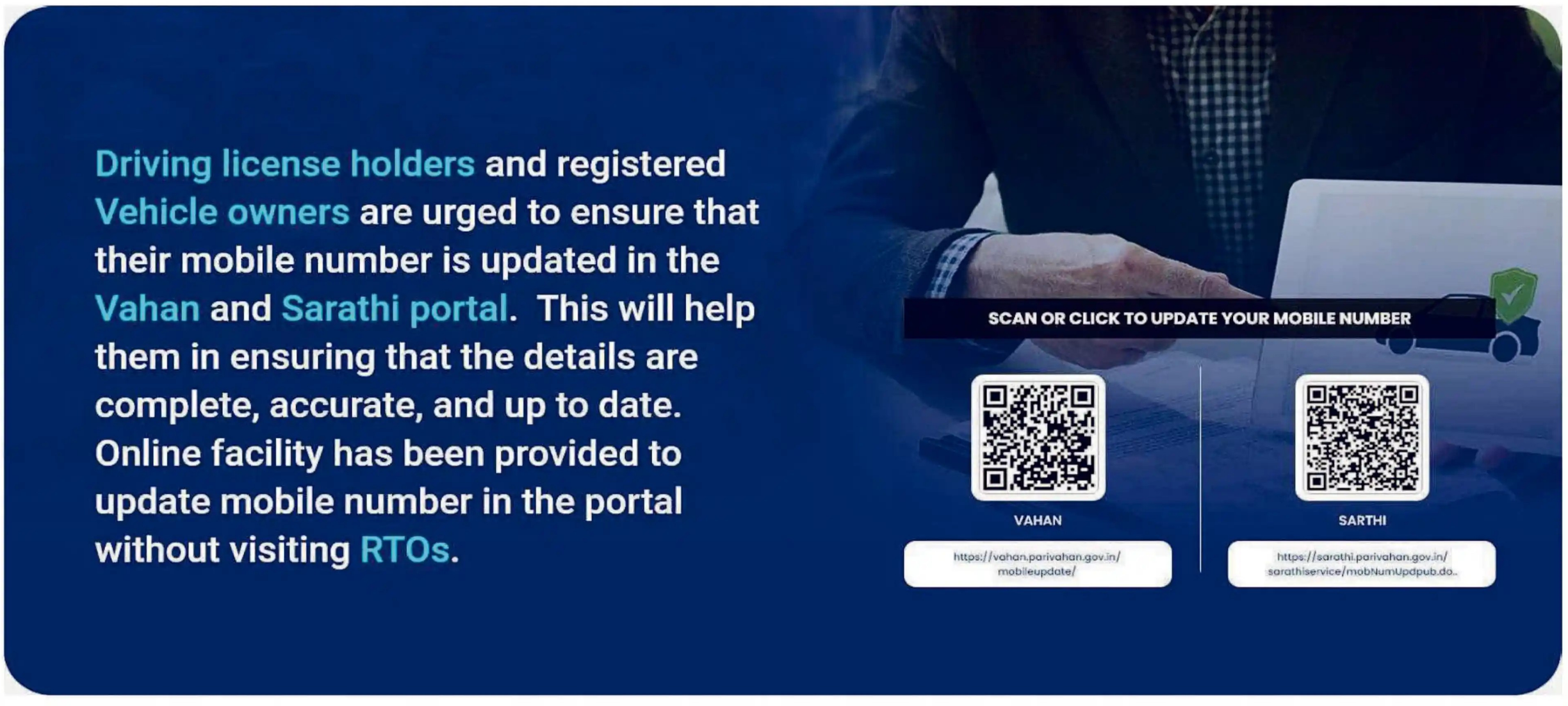
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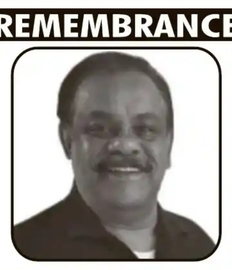

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Recounting of votes in Malur Assembly seat on November 11

KOLAR, DHNS

The state election commission has scheduled the recounting ofvotes polled in the Malur Assembly constituency in the 2023 elections to November 11.

The deputy commissioner, also the district electoral officer, has received a letter in this regard from the office of the state election commissioner, sources in the district administration said.

The letter asks the DC to follow the instructions contained in the October 14 order of the Supreme Court and those of the Election Commission (EC).

The district administration is considering the premises of the horticulture college at Tamaka on the outskirts of the city for the recounting exercise.

In the 2023 elections, K Y Nanjegowda of the Congress had defeated K S Manjunath Gowda of the BJP by a slender margin of 248 votes.

Manjunath Gowda had filed an election petition in the high court, alleging that the counting of votes had not been undertaken by due process of law and that there were irregularities in the exercise.

A single bench of the HC had nullified Nanjegowda's election and ordered the EC to hold a recount.

He had filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, questioning the HC's order.

The Apex Court had stayed the HC order nullifying the election, but ordered a recount of votes. It had asked the poll panel to submit the result in a sealed cover, specifying that the same could not be publicly announced without the court's permission. It has scheduled the next hearing to November 24.

Gatherings at public places: High Court reserves orders on state's appeal

GO doesn't prohibit gathering, only stipulates permission: AG

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A division bench at the Dharwad bench of the high court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the writ appeal filed by the state government challenging the single bench interim order staying the operation of the controversial government order (GO), which identifies as unlawful assembly congregation of more than 10 persons at any place maintained by the government.

The government order dated October 18, 2025, was issued close on the heels of RSS proposing to take out route marches across the state to commemorate its centenary celebrations.

The order, issued by the home department, required prior permission for any gathering of more than 10 persons on properties maintained by the state government, including schools, colleges, playgrounds, parks, roads and water bodies.

Advocate general Shashikiran Shetty appeared before the division bench headed by Justice S G Pandit and said that the GO was issued with a positive intent to protect government property and does not affect rights of the citizens.

He said that the government order does not prohibit gathering, but only stipulates prior permission.

During the hearing, the division bench asked the AG as to why the government had not availed the recourse of seeking a review of the interim order before the single bench itself.

The AG argued that the interim order passed by the single bench is in the nature of a final order, affecting the right of the state government. Thus, a writ appeal is maintainable, AG said.

On the other hand, senior advocate Ashok Haranahalli, appearing for the petitioners before the single bench, submitted that when an interim order is passed, a writ appeal is not maintainable.

The GO is challenged by two organizations from Hubballi; Punashcetana Seva Samsthe and We Care Foundation and two individuals; Rajeev Malhar Patil Kulkarni from Dharwad and Uma Satyajit Chavan from Belagavi.

On October 28, a single bench had stayed the operation of the order, observing that the GO, prima facie, takes away the constitutional rights conferred upon citizens under chapter III of the Constitution.

The single bench had noted that already the provisions under the Karnataka Police Act regulate the conduct and behavior and action of persons constituting assemblies and processions. The GO, prima facie, takes away the rights conferred upon citizens under Article 19(1)(a) and (b) of the Constitution, the single bench had said, while posting the matter to November 17 for further consideration.

H Y Meti

Former minister H Y Meti dies at 80

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hullappa Yamanappa (H Y) Meti, the Bagalkot Congress MLA and longtime loyalist of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, died on Tuesday afternoon aged 80.

Meti died at 12.37 pm in Apollo Hospital, Jayanagar, due to "acute exacerbation of interstitial lung disease leading to cardiorespiratory arrest," according to a bulletin.

His body was shifted to his daughter's residence at RT Nagar. His last rites will be performed with full state honours in Bagalkot on Wednesday.

"When I met (Meti) three days back at the hospital, he spoke well. The doctors told me that he'd recover. I didn't think he'd die so soon," Siddaramaiah said, describing Meti's death as a "personal loss".

Meti, an influential Kuruba leader in north Karnataka, first became an MLA in 1989. He was a 5-time MLA - thrice from the erstwhile Guledgud constituency (on Janata Dal ticket) and twice from Bagalkot (on Congress ticket). In 1996, Meti resigned as an MLA when he contested and won the Lok Sabha election from Bagalkot. He followed Siddaramaiah from Janata Dal to Congress.

"He was loyal to me whether or not I made him a minister," the CM recalled.

"I knew him since 1983 when I first became an MLA. When he was elected to Parliament, he tried learning Hindi," he said.

Meti was the excise minister in the first Siddaramaiah government. He had to resign in December 2016 after a video surfaced purportedly showing him in a compromising position with a woman who had approached him seeking the transfer of an excise official.

'Won in 2023'

While Meti lost the 2018 election, he bounced back by winning the 2023 polls.

"Bagalkot isn't an easy constituency. He won because of his popularity," Siddaramaiah said.

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I further declare that, if my son gets involved in any police case, my son should be held responsible and I will not be responsible for the same, and I will not interfere in any police case.
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PERON ROACH & PERON ARTHUR ROACH,** residing at No.5, 1st Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560038, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **PERON ARTHUR ROACH** vide affidavit 21.08.2025 before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAVITHA BAGALKOTE,** residing at # 82, 4th Main, Near Hosakerehalli Bus Stop, Dattatreya Nagar, Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru- 560085, have changed my name to **SAVITHA A B** vide affidavit dated 04-11-2025 before notary L. Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **SAVITHA A B** only.

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JUMBOS ON TIGER HUNT

Elephants are pressed into service in the operation to trace a tiger in BR Hills tiger protected area of Chamarajanagar district on Tuesday.

Govt signs MoU with Walmart to boost SHGs

To be trained in digital literacy, e-commerce and marketing

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major boost to women-led self-help groups (SHGs) across the state, the National Livelihood Mission (NLM), operating under the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood, has partnered with Walmart Vriddhi to enhance the digital capabilities of SHGs.

Minister for Skill Development Dr Sharanprakash Patil said this is a three-year collaboration with Walmart Vriddhi and through the partnership, it will provide free digital learning resources, business tools, and mentorship to SHGs, enabling them to modernise operations, embrace e-commerce, and build stronger linkages with Flipkart and Walmart Marketplace.

"There are many SHGs across the state producing a variety of daily-use products. Until now, most of their sales were limited to periodic government-organised fairs. With the Walmart Vriddhi partnership, SHGs will be trained in digital literacy, e-commerce and marketing, and other capabilities," said the minister.

"This initiative has great potential to transform the SHG ecosystem and it will open new markets and create better income opportunities for thousands of women. Earlier, SHGs lacked digital marketing skills. With Walmart Vriddhi's support, we can expect their products to reach a wider audience and earn fair value," the minister added.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajaneesh said that the move would give global visibility to Karnataka's SHG products.

"So far, their products have been sold only during departmental events twice a year. With this partnership, SHGs will have opportunities to sell throughout the year. We had local talent; what we needed was external expertise like Walmart Vriddhi to take them global," she said.

Walmart's Senior Vice President Jason Fremstad and other officials were present.

Exclusive SHG product centre at airport

While signing an MoU with Walmart, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajaneesh said plans are being made to set up an exclusive SHG products centre at Kempegowda International Airport, strategically located in a high footfall area to attract both domestic and international travellers.

Laxmi Hebbalkar.

Talks on to solve sugarcane farmers' issues: Hebbalkar

BENGALURU, DHNS: With farmers in Belagavi district demanding higher prices for sugarcane, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said on Tuesday that neither farmers nor factory owners should suffer.

Speaking to reporters, Hebbalkar — who also hails from Belagavi district — said, "Even we are farmers; just because we own factories doesn't mean we don't understand the problems of farmers. Neither the farmers nor factory owners should suffer."

'Two rounds of talks'

Stating that there had already been two rounds of talks with farmers, she said: "Since I was busy, I couldn't participate in the meeting. My brother and son are in touch with farmers."

Reacting to BJP leaders participating in the protests, the minister said everyone can participate in the farmers' protest, but should not politicise it.

Probe all cases of missing women, rape, suspicious deaths: Women's panel

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has urged the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to immediately undertake a thorough investigation into all cases of missing women and girls, their rape and murder cases, unnatural or suspicious deaths and other related matters — or if such investigation has already been conducted, furnish the relevant details.

Commission chairperson Dr Nagalakshmi Choudhary made the request in a letter to senior IPS officer Pronab Mohanty, the head of the SIT, on October 31.

Karnataka constituted the SIT on July 19 to probe allegations of mass burials in Dharmasthala, a temple town in Dakshina Kannada district.

Dr Choudhary said the government had appointed the SIT following the commission's request to investigate "unnatural deaths, missing cases and sexual assault cases linked to women and female students in the last 20 years in Dharmasthala, under Crime Case No 39/2025.

The government order stated all related cases in Dharmasthala and any other such cases registered anywhere else in the state and connected to this incident would be automatically transferred to the SIT.

"Thus, both the intent behind the commission's request and the government order indicate that the purpose of forming the SIT was not limited only to the investigation of Crime Case No 39/2025, but rather to conduct a comprehensive investigation into all cases related to women. However, so far, there is no information suggesting that the SIT has investigated such cases".

Citing media reports, the commission noted that the SIT's inquiry has been confined to the statements made by C N Chinnaiah, a former sanitation worker who had testified before the court claiming to have exhumed human remains between 1995 and 2014.

The investigation appears limited to the recovery of skeletal remains based on his statement, it added.

ECO-EMERGENCY IN U-K?

Green alert as projects galore may consume countless trees

In last 30 yrs, dist officially lost 3.11L trees; experts say it's under-counted

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The Canara forest circle, which covers entire Uttara Kannada district, has received forest clearance applications to cut 19,797 large trees for various development works on nearly 109.84 ha of forest land.

The projects include Sharavathi pumped storage project, widening of Kaiga-Bare road, installation of mobile phone towers & multi-village water supply projects.

In the last three decades, the district officially lost over 3.11 lakh trees to major development works.

The count of 3.11 lakh trees has been arrived at based on requests the project implementing agencies made to the forest department. Experts say this number is vastly under-counted.

Apart from the 19,797 trees, the district, which is one of the greenest and highly bio-diverse region, could lose another 3.5 lakh trees if projects such as Hubballi-Ankola railway line, Keni private port, expansion of Karwar port, Talaguppa-Sirsi-Hubballi railway project, Goa-Tamnar power transmission line, Kaiga nuclear power plant expansion and drawing of transmission line and other linear projects receive approval from various authorities and courts. The forest department is yet to get clearance requests from the implementing agencies for these projects.

Experts say these projects in one of the ecologically most sensitive areas could further intensify natural disasters like landslides and flooding.

India State of Forest Report, a biennial study conducted by the Forest Survey of India, says between 2003 and 2023, Uttara Kannada district lost 1,581 sq km of forest area (almost twice the size of Bengaluru city). Of the 10,291 sq km of geographical area, the district had

People of Begodi village point to the hill where KPCL plans to drill a tunnel for the pumped storage project across Sharavathi river in Uttara Kannada district.

76.20% under forest cover two decades ago. Today, its total green cover is just 6,261 sq km.

"Uttara Kannada has one of the highest endemics in the world. The region has a very vast diversity of flora and fauna that are endemic to Western Ghats. Bringing in development works to such sensitive areas will spell disaster to not just the biodiversity hotspot, but entire south India," says M D Subhash Chandran, a scientist at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

He says any alteration in landscape will adversely impact bio-engineering mechanism of trees that have evolved over millennia. "The tree roots are holding the inundated landscape. If trees are cut, it will lead to landslides and mud slips," he says. Scientist T V Ramachandra questions the logic of governments in approving such large-scale development works in Western Ghats.

"Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, forbids implementing development works in ecologically sensitive areas. Uttara Kannada falls in ecogroup specialization index zone-1 and rules do not permit even the government to cut trees in this area," he says.

Studies have shown that Western Ghats hold 1.23 gigatonnes of carbon sequestration and annually, it captures 37.5 million tonnes of carbon.

"If this area is disturbed, it will have a cascading impact not only on hydrology of the Ghats, but also fish production. It will increase salinity downstream," he says. He fears the current perennial streams can become seasonal.

Marine biologist V N Nayak says the government and forest department were not considering the aftermath of implementing these projects.

"Landslides and mud slips caused due to construction of highways by cutting slopes have resulted in loss of more trees than the project itself. But these numbers are not counted while implementing the project". He says it is hard to believe that project implementing agencies will be cutting only the "approved" number of trees as there is no monitoring agency.

"Even compensatory afforestation for the projects in the district is not being done within the district. This is resulting in a double whammy for it," Nayak adds.

MAHE Bengaluru's 3rd edition of Open House on Saturday November 8

Yelahanka campus of MAHE Bengaluru all set to host Open House this Saturday

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru, announced the third edition of its highly anticipated Open House. The event is scheduled on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Yelahanka campus.

This immersive event brings together students, parents and educators to explore new-age programmes, cutting-edge innovation and future-ready possibilities. The event offers a first-hand glimpse into the vibrant learning environment and dynamic culture that define MAHE Bengaluru.

A highlight of Open House is the inspiring address by Prof Dr Madhu Veeraraghavan, Pro Vice Chancellor, MAHE Bengaluru, who delivers the 'You Belong Here' talk that resonates deeply with the institution's ethos of belonging, purpose and possibility. The talk offers a first-hand perspective on MAHE Bengaluru's vision for academic excellence, innovation and student growth. "Open House 3.0 isn't just an event - it's your power move into MAHE Bengaluru. From ground-breaking programmes to world-class facilities, it's where aspirations meet opportunities and futures take shape. Step in, explore, and see what makes us extraordinary," says Prof Dr Madhu Veeraraghavan.

What follows is an equally compelling session featuring the heads of institutes and departments, alongside the leaders of admissions, placements, student affairs and campus services. This collective interaction offers parents and aspiring students a comprehensive insider view of how MAHE Bengaluru brings together its academic and student ecosystem. It's a once-in-a-year opportunity to engage with the people shaping the institute's direction - an experience that brings alive the spirit of 'You Belong Here'.

Agenda

The day unfolds with an exciting line-up of Open House activities, bringing together ideas, creativity and collaboration across disciplines through a diverse range of experiences.

Here are a few:

Tech off: A technical project exhibition showcasing student innovations
Domino: Competitive gaming challenges
Bizwhiz: A high-energy business quiz
Moot court: A simulated courtroom experience for aspiring legal minds
Open future: A guided career assessment to help students align passions with academic pathways

Beyond the sessions, the campus comes alive with music, movement and flavour - from flash mobs and live performances to the ever-popular food path, offering a vibrant spread of culinary delights. Every experience is brought to life by the energy and creativity of MAHE Bengaluru's students, who spearhead the performances and engagements throughout the day.

Visitors can also embark on guided campus tours, discovering how innovation, creativity and collaboration converge to shape the MAHE Bengaluru experience.

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Ensure proper implementation of E-Swathu, Priyank tells ZP CEOs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Priyank Kharge on Tuesday instructed Chief Executive Officers of all Zilla Panchayats (ZPs) to ensure systematic implementation of the 'E-Swathu' initiative that is aimed at regularising houses and plots in the rural areas of the state.

Priyank, who reviewed the implementation of departmental programmes, said that the government hoped to bring one crore properties into the legal fold through the E-Swathu initiative. The RDPR Minister asked the ZP CEOs to ensure all Panchayat Development Officers were acquainted with the recently published regulations for the E-Swathu programme. "Arrangements must be made to train the officials in all districts," he said.

Taking stock of the Local Economic Acceleration Programme, the minister instructed the officials to identify properties in Gram Panchayats where structures that could generate a steady stream of revenue for the local governing bodies could be constructed. Priyank assured the GPs of the government disbursing funds for revamping and refurbishing GP properties near tourist and pilgrimage sites.

The minister, meanwhile, expressed concern over the pace at which property tax was being collected in some districts.

Banks charging interest on amounts already recovered: Mallya to High Court

All recoveries temporary till he submits to court jurisdiction: Banks

BENGALURU, DHNS

Fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Tuesday requested the High Court to direct banks to stop charging interest on amounts already recovered from him and the Kingfisher Airlines.

Meanwhile, the banks have argued that all recoveries made remained temporary until Mallya submitted to the court jurisdiction.

Justice Lalitha Kanneganti posted the matter to November 12 granting time to the advocate for the official liquidator to file a statement of objections.

In his petition, Mallya has sought a direction to the banks to provide him the details regarding amounts realised and the details of original owners of the assets utilised for realising the amounts in terms of the amended recovery certificate issued by the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) on April 10, 2017.

He has also sought a statement of assets either belonging to him, firms or third parties, which are available and unutilised for the purpose of satisfying the debt owed under the amended recovery certificate. He has stated that additional recovery proceedings are still being carried out against him even after the recovery.

Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, appearing for Mallya, submitted that recoveries already exceeded the owed amount.

He cited a press release issued by the Enforcement Directorate on July 16, 2021, stating that Rs 7,181 crore had been recovered.

He said that the finance ministry's report for 2024-25 had also confirmed the restoration of the complete amount and that Rs 14,000 crore assets were restored to the banks. The lender banks cannot claim that recovery made through court cannot be construed as final recovery, he argued.

On the other hand, senior advocate Vikram Huilgol, representing the banks, submitted that all recoveries remained temporary until Mallya, declared a fugitive, submitted to the court jurisdiction.

He said the banks were bound by statutory schemes treating recoveries as provisional, since various proceedings, orders of attachment under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) Act, have been in place since June 2016.

During the hearing, the court noted that finality would only be attained when Mallya faced the proceedings.

The court pointed out an Apex Court order questioning relief to a non-resident petitioner.

To this, senior advocate Poovayya said that the petitioner was bound by an English court order preventing his departure from the United Kingdom (UK) and this fact was brought to the notice of the Apex Court.

Bribe for cops, crematorium staff: NHRC notice to govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: The NHRC on Tuesday said it has issued a notice to the state government and the state's police chief over reports that an aged man was allegedly made to give bribe to an ambulance driver, police, crematorium staff and civic officials after the death of his only daughter in Bengaluru.

The National Human Rights Commission, in a statement, said the content of reports, if true, raise serious issues.

The NHRC has taken "suo motu cognisance of a media report that while mourning the death of his only daughter, a 64-year-old father was made to pay bribes at every step," the statement read.

According to an Oct 30 report, what should have been a solemn farewell, turned into a "nightmare of corruption, bureaucracy and inhumanity, it added. Therefore, the NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretary and the DG&IGP, the panel said.

An IIT-Madras and IIM-Ahmedabad graduate woman working in the city suffered brain haemorrhage on Sept n18. When the father called an ambulance after her death, the ambulance driver allegedly "apparently overcharged for services," it said.

'Delay' in relief payment: Farmer attempts self-immolation in Mandya

MANDYA, DHNS

A farmer attempted to end his life by self-immolation in front of the DC's office in Mandya on Tuesday.

M D Manjegowda (55) of Moodanahalli, KR Pet taluk, attempted suicide by setting himself ablaze after dousing petrol on his body at Cauvery Park, opposite the DC's office, in the city.

He alleged that he had not received the compensation in the land acquisition case for several years.

However, locals immediately rescued Manjegowda and admitted him to Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences.

As he suffered 60% burns and is battling for life, he has been shifted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru for further treatment, doctors said.

The farmer's family had two acres of land at Moodanahalli. The government had acquired the land a few years ago and had developed 49 sites on it.

Manjegowda was neither paid compensation for the land acquired nor allotted alternative land.

Despite submitting several petitions in this regard to the DC and taluk offices, no step had been taken by the officials, it is alleged.

On Monday, Manjegowda visited the DC's office to submit a petition. He slept at the park last night and attempted self-immolation on Tuesday morning. Initially, Manjegowda claimed that the fire was due to electrocution, but later said that he had doused himself with petrol for self-immolation, it is said.

Order for probe

Deputy Commissioner Kumara said that no application by Manjegowda, seeking compensation related to land acquisition, was pending at the Tahsildar's office in KR Pet.

According to primary investigation, it is suspected that he might have attempted suicide due to a fight with a family member or dejected due to bank loan, the DC said.

The Additional DC has been told to conduct a probe. He has already spoken to him and gathered details.

The doctors have been directed to shift him to another hospital, if he needs additional treatment.The exact reason will be known after the probe is completed, Kumara said.

Mescom engineer caught while receving bribe

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS: Lokayukta sleuths on Tuesday arrested a Mangaluru Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) junior engineer while he was receiving a bribe of Rs 40,000 to clear a contractor's pending bill.

A civil contractor who had completed work, had approached Mescom junior engineer Mallikarjunswamy seeking his help in getting dues of Rs 10 lakh cleared. Although the contractor completed the work assigned to him a year ago, his bill had not been settled. Upset with the engineer for demanding bribe, the contractor lodged a complaint with Lokayukta.

A female leopard which was rescued near Holenarsipur in Hassan district on Tuesday.

Leopard rescued near Holenarsipur

HOLENARSIPUR (HASSAN DIST), DHNS: A female leopard, around one-and-a-half-years old, was trapped in a cage laid by the forest department at Adike Hosuru village in the taluk on Tuesday.

Following complaints by villagers that a leopard had been creating fear, while attacking and hunting fowls, dogs, sheep and cattle, the forest department had placed a cage near the house of one Manjunath on Monday.

The leopardess fell into the cage on the same night. Range forest officer Pradeep visited the spot. The big cat will be released into the forest, officials said.

Prashant Kishor party's campaign targets Bihari voters in Bengaluru

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections drawing near, the Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraaj party (JSP) is making a targeted pitch to the massive Bihari migrant population in Bengaluru, urging them to return home and vote for "education and employment."

Over 100 volunteers have distributed more than 40,000 campaign pamphlets across areas with high Bihari presence.

The outreach covered key areas like Sarjapur, Electronics City, Whitefield, R T Nagar, Babusipalya, and Yeshwanthpur. Dr Nischith K R, the party's convener, told *DH*, "In Industrial Peenya alone, around 4,000 workers have been covered. In Doddanekkundi, there is a place called Chhota Bihar where the maximum Biharis are cooking professionals."

He added that Yeshwantpur is a major transportation hub for Biharis and their presence in Whitefield is primarily in white-collar jobs.

Despite the political interest, a major hurdle remains the lack of adequate travel arrangements for migrants keen to exercise their franchise.

He further pointed out that the main challenge is getting train tickets, and whoever manages to get them has to travel in overcrowded conditions (without much accommodation).

Getting leave from contractors or employers is also a major hurdle. Since the elections are after 15 days of Chhath Puja, extending leave is particularly tough. This lack of transport and financial assistance is the main concern for daily wage workers.

"The train tickets are expensive, and the special trains are already full. If I take two days off work for travel, it means my family loses Rs 1,000 in wages," said Ramesh Singh, a construction worker near Sarjapur.

Another migrant, Mohammad Zakhir from a transportation hub in Yeshwantpur, said, "We want to vote for change, but who will pay for the journey? My old party promised to send us home last time, but this year, everyone is silent."

"The change we need right now is guaranteed ticket and paid leave. If I leave work without permission, my contractor will hire someone else the next day, and I will lose my job entirely," said Pramod Kumar, a painter working in Whitefield.

"Every election, it is the same story. We save our money for Chhath Puja, but the elections are just after. The few special trains are full, and if we take a general ticket, we travel like sheep," Ajay Yadav, a security guard near Electronics City, said.

DKS appeals employers to grant leave to migrants

The Bihar state Legislative Assembly elections will be held on November 6 and November 11.

A large number of Bihar residents are working in various parts of Bengaluru and Karnataka.

"In this regard, I request all companies, commercial entrepreneurs, hotels, contractors, builders, shopkeepers and other businessmen to provide at least three days of paid leave to the voters of Bihar state to enable them to vote in the Bihar State General Election and to cooperate in actively participating in the election process," D K Shivakumar's said in a letter to the employers.

Trains to Bihar

The Railway Board has decided to extend the operation period of train nos. 06261/06262 Yeshwantpur–Muzaffarpur–Bengaluru cantonment express special for six additional trips in each direction.

Train Number 06261 Yeshwantpur–Muzaffarpur Weekly Express Special will now operate from October 29 to December 3.

Train Number 06262 Muzaffarpur–Bengaluru Cantonment Weekly Express Special will now operate from October 31 to December 5.

These trains will continue to run with their existing stoppages, composition, and timings except for one change.

Notably, the revised arrival time of Train Number 06262 Muzaffarpur–Bengaluru Cantonment Express at Bengaluru Cantonment station has been changed from 6.30 to 7.30 am.

Avenues

MYSORE RACE CLUB LIMITED
P.B.No.11, Race Course Road, MYSORE - 570 010
Tel: 0821-2521675; Email: secretary@mysoreraceclub.com

INVITES

Applications from **qualified Chartered Accountant Firms** for appointment as Statutory Auditors of the Club in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act. Eligible firms having a valid registration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and at least five years of experience in conducting statutory audits of medium/large-scale industries may apply. Detailed firm profile, along with the audit fee quotation, should reach **the Secretary & CEO of the Club** in hand or by email @ **secretary@mysoreraceclub.com** within 5 days of this advertisement.

Date : 5th November 2025
Place : Mysore

Sd/- Secretary & CEO,
Mysore Race Club Limited

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Major Northeast parties...

Northeast, From Page 1

Apart from Sangma and Deb Barma, Mmhonlumo Kikon, a former BJP leader & former minister in Nagaland and Daniel Langthasa, founder of People's Party, a new outfit in tribal-dominated Dima Hasao district in Assam, signed the resolution.

Sangma said a 9-member committee with his elder brother and NPP leader James Sangma as convenor has been formed to work out modalities of the new entity.

The merger decision came days after Naga People's Front (NPF) & Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in Nagaland merged. The NPF & NDPP are now part of the Nagaland government with BJP as other major partner.

Sangma said while they will continue in NDA, they will fight elections on their own. "Barring one time, NPP has fought all elections alone and so have Tipra Motha. We do not have any fight with anyone, but we need consolidated voice to raise issues of our people," Conrad said.

"For too long, we, the younger generation leaders of Northeast, have spoken about same issues and concerns, but from different political spaces. We realised that our strength lies in unity, and that it is time to give our people one collective voice. Taking inspiration from the vision of great leaders who fought selflessly for the development of our land, we have resolved to carry forward their ideals by coming together," a statement by the leaders said.

Though Sangma & Deb Barma cited the need for unity as the reason behind the merger decision, insiders in both parties said "growing indifference" by BJP towards issues concerning tribals prompted them towards merger.

"We need a strong and united voice for issues such as threats posed by illegal migrants, land rights for indigenous communities and frequent violations of powers of the autonomous councils. Since we don't have so many seats in Lok Sabha, we need a united voice," a Tipra Motha leader told *DH*.

Bring street vendors under food safety rules, says HC

HC, From Page 1

"Yet, there remains a solitary fly in the ointment – the absence of an effective and meaningful bifurcation between restaurants, street vendors, food trucks and hawkers," he said.

The court further said, "The only direction that can be issued while sustaining the Act and the Regulations is that Government of India should now enact a law or guidelines as the case would be, specifically and separately for restaurant businesses dividing them to small, medium and large businesses, clearly indicating the hygiene, cooking processes, procurement of raw material etc., to be in conformity with traditional Indian standards of cooking and cooking processes."

Delhi to get one more tunnel road to ease traffic

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi government is planning to build another 4 km-long tunnel road to smooth traffic flow in the city.

The PWD is preparing a detailed project report to build a 4-km tunnel between Inderlok and Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminal to create a high-speed corridor linking North Delhi with Central Delhi.

The move to build a tunnel on a busy corridor is part of the Delhi government's broader strategy to strengthen road infrastructure and ease long-standing traffic congestion in North Delhi, said PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh.

This corridor is expected to be a major relief for commuters from north and northwest Delhi, as well as those travelling from Haryana. Once operational, it will provide a direct, high-speed route to Central Delhi.

The proposed corridor is expected to be a major relief for commuters from north and northwest Delhi, as well as those travelling from Haryana. PTI FILE PHOTO

The project is expected to cut travel time by up to 40%, especially benefiting vehicles arriving from Sonipat, Rohtak, and the Urban Extension Road (UER) to Central Delhi, said the minister. At present, the national capital has only one 1.3-km-long tunnel road, which was constructed as part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor.

Another 5.1 km long 6-lane tunnel road is planned connecting Dwarka Expressway to Indira Gandhi International Airport, which provides a high-speed link between Dwarka, Gurgaon, Vasant Kunj, and the airport.

Earlier, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had approved the construction of the 5.1-km tunnel, and work will commence next year .

Close fight on cards as campaign ends for phase 1

Bihar, From Page 1

The only difference being addition of Chirag Paswan's 6% additional votes to the NDA, while losing 3% of Mukesh Sahani (who was with NDA in 2020) votes. This comes to around 40% votes the NDA can expect this time. The Mahagatbandhan, which bagged 37% votes in 2020, can be assured of a minimum 40% votes this time with the addition of 3% votes of Sahani, who has been projected as Deputy CM of the Opposition alliance.

'Enemy within'

The third factor is the 'enemy within'. In theory, both the camps radiate unity. But the ground reality is that the JD(U) is suspicious of the BJP (as neither Narendra Modi nor Amit Shah have said that Nitish will be CM post-poll) as much as the BJP is suspicious of the JD(U). The Mahagatbandhan, too, is facing an internecine war, with 11 such seats in the fray where the allies are fighting amongst each other.

Women voters

Lastly, women voters constitute 3.5 crore of all the 7.4 crore eligible voters post-SIR exercise in Bihar. The trend since the 2010 elections shows that women have rooted for Nitish for his welfare schemes.

However, Tejashwi too has promised the moon. His lofty assurances include Rs 30,000 salary for numerically-strong Jeevika Didis, health insurance and a promise of Rs 2,500 per month under Mai-Behan Yojna.

"As of now, it's a straight and close fight between the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc. However, even a one per cent swing can tilt the balance either side," said a senior editor of a vernacular daily who has covered Bihar since 1995.

Government of Karnataka
**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Haveri.**
Email: ceprednhvri@gmail.com Tel No. 08375-232454

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

This office letter No.28/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-1&2/Tender/2025-26/4305 Dated:03-11-2025

On 03-11-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work Indent No. **19703, 19852, 19881, 19882 (2A), 19884, 19885 (SC), 19986, 19625 (Call-2) (2A), 19633(Call-2), 19357 (Call-2), 17101 (Call-2), 14639 (Call-2), 19963, 19973, 19987 (2A), 19943 (2A), 19947 (Call-2), 20048, 19358 (Call-2)** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on **Dated: 11-11-2025 (upto 4:00 PM).** For further additional information, any changes & queries visit **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

SD/- Executive Engineer.
P.R.E. Division, Haveri.
dipr/hvr/dipo/482/25-26

**Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga**
No.EE/PWD/Smg/JE-2/IFT-25/2025-26 Dtd:04.11.2025
Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class- 3 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

8443 Deposit Contribution

All Contractors 1. Soraba taluk 1 Work (I.No:28292)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates :

Works Date:10-11-2025 to 17-11-2025. Period of complisation :11 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/09/11/1181

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF
COMMUNICATION ACCOUNTS-KARNATAKA CIRCLE
https ://dot.gov.in/cca/karnataka**
सत्यमेव जयते

ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎನ್.ಎಲ್./ಡಿ.ಓ.ಟಿ. ನಿವೃತ್ತರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ

ಸಂವಹನ ಖಾತೆಗಳ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಂಚಾರ ಸೌಧ, ಪ್ಯಾಲೇಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001, ರವರು ನವೆಂಬರ್-2025 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಜೀವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಜೀವನ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ) ಶಿಬಿರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಿಮಗೆ ಹತ್ತಿರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಿಬಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ತಕ್ಷಣದ ನೆರವಿನಿಂದ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಜೀವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನುಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ, ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು, ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಬಿಎಸ್ಎನ್ಎಲ್ ಘಟಕವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅಥವಾ ನಮ್ಮ ಜಾಲತಾಣ **https://cgca.gov.in/ccakk/** ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ.

Attention BSNL/DoT Pensioners

The Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts, Sanchar Soudha, Palace Road, Bengaluru – 560001, is organizing Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan) Camps during November 2025 across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi.

Visit the camp nearest to you and submit your Life Certificate conveniently with on the spot assistance.

For more information, contact this office, the nearest BSNL unit, or visit our website at https://cgca.gov.in/ccakk/

**Sd/-
Joint Controller of Communications Accounts**

SIDDHASIRI MULTISTATE MULTIPURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD
HEAD OFFICE VIJAYAPURA 586101
ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER
TENDER NOTICE
INVITATION FOR SEALED QUOTATIONS (250 LED-3D Boards)
Published Date: 05/11/2025

Siddhasiri Multi-State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Limited, a reputed organization in the co-operative sector covering Karnataka and Maharashtra, invites sealed quotations from experienced firms for the manufacture, installation and maintenance of LED Board for the Co-operative Society for a period of 5 (five) years. Last date: **11/11/2025.**

The contact details to get technical details and conditions are as follows
Phone: 8123955286, E-mail: siddhasiripurchase2006@gmail.com

The following Conditions Apply

* Size 12X3 feet - Background 4MM ACP board CNC router cutting with 2X1in MS foam fabrication and A-Cast 40 acrylic inside With 1.5 watts ADS or brand-lit led with power soft backside with black back plex to be covered (5 years warranty) Address 5MM acrylic laser.

**Sd/- Managing Director
Siddhasiri Multi State Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.
Head office: Vijayapura -586101**

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/67/2025-26/1935 Date: 04.11.2025

PUBLICATION
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Smt. Channamma W/o Ramachandregowda, Sri Venkatesh and Sri Rangappa S/o Ramachandregowda have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use for the Survey No's mentioned below of Sunnaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Bengaluru South District from Agriculture and Residential Zone to Commercial Purpose, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. Details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent	Land Use As Per Master Plan	Change of Land Use sought by the Applicant
1	44/2	0 Acre-27 Guntas	Residential	Commercial
2	44/3	0 Acre-18Guntas	Partly Agriculture and Partly Residential	
3	44/1	0 Acre-11Guntas	Agriculture	
4	44/4	0 Acre-09½Guntas		
5	44/7	0 Acre-28½Guntas		
6	44/10	02 Acre-30Guntas		

Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;
1. By developing the above said land for Commercial Purpose the General Publics will get job opportunities.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be job opportunity for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial Complex in the above said land.
4. By developing the Commercial area Government will get income in the form of various Taxes.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after stipulated time will not be considered.

**Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.**
DIPR/CP/3589/MAA/25-26

**Rural Drinking Water &
Sanitation Department, Kolar**
**KPPP Tender Corrigendum Notification
No:09/2025-26, Dated: 16.10.2025**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department invited tender for the scheme approved under Jal Jeevan Mission(Functional household tap connection) 2022-23 of Kolar District, Item rate tenders by two cover system through KPPP portal. **Due to technical issue In Notification No:09/2025-26, Dated: 16.10.2025 Sl.No 27th Work Indent No RWSSD/2023-24/ WS/WORK_INDENT1323/CALL-2** has been postponed and published. Those who have registered in PWD/ CPWD(Government of Karnataka) are eligible in participation of tendering for more details visit website: **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for online submission of Bid is: **11.11.2025 upto 17.30 hours.**

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Kolar**
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:341/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
**ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192-264669
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- **No: EE/KNNL/ BCD-5/DVG/PB-4/4701RLIS/2025-26/ 1547 Date:03.11.2025**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.11..2025 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.11.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.11.2025 ರಂದು 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿ: 07.11.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.11.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆ.

1) KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK_INDENT 2929/call-5)
ರೂ 18.00 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗಿಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/453/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

**ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.**

High on AI? Recruiters may check your...

AI-free, From Page 1

"Technology should push us to think better, not think less," Somdutta said. "The idea of AI-free assessments is interesting. We should build systems that strengthen human reasoning, not isolate it. The same goes for governance and safety; they cannot just be compliance checkboxes; they need to be part of culture and leadership."

Somdutta said as AI platforms become more "regional and specialised", she foresees a "world where local intelligence meets global scale". "That is where innovation will thrive, when human insight and AI capability grow side by side," she added.

Enterprises that successfully integrate AI-free evaluation into their broader talent strategies will protect the "human edge" in decision quality and adaptability, providing an advantage that will compound as GenAI reshapes the competitive landscape, Gartner said.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, said automation can improve efficiency, but hiring will always need a human lens. As machines take over routine tasks, organisations are placing greater value on distinctly human skills - strategic thinking, creativity, decision-making, collaboration, and the ability to use technology to solve business problems smartly. "The best organisations are using technology to handle volume and efficiency, while ensuring that the final hiring decisions still prioritise potential, cultural fit, and problem-solving ability, areas where human intuition matters most," he added.

Gartner also predicted that by the end of 2026, "death by AI" legal claims will exceed 1,000 due to insufficient AI risk guardrails.

Companies will likely showcase either their AI use or lack thereof to differentiate themselves from competitors and mitigate the risk of potential litigation.

CM: Sandur to get skill varsity...

Skill, From Page 1

Siddaramaiah said the state government has provided jobs to over 27,000 aspirants who participated in job fairs in the last two years.

Applauding Bengaluru's strength, Siddaramaiah stated, "There could be no better place than Bengaluru. It has always been the city where ideas meet industry, the city that has transformed from a Garden City to the Startup Capital, and now, the Skill Capital of India."

Siddaramaiah said that through the Chief Minister Kaushalya Karnataka Yojana (CMKKY), the government took skills to every corner of the state. "Our target was five lakh youths and we went beyond and benefited 16 lakh youths," he mentioned. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar that said Bengaluru is a conducive place for knowledge, cooperation, coordination and safest place globally.

"Thank you all for choosing Bengaluru. No skill is inferior. A carpenters skill is as important as anyone else's. All skills deserve respect. California has 13 lakh engineers while Bengaluru has 25 lakh engineers. After 9/11 attack in the US, Bengaluru's safe environment became known globally. Besides it has a large pool of human resource," he added. Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, IT BT Minister Priyank Kharge and others were present.

Minister for Labour, Mauritius, Mohammad Raza Cassam Uteer, who attended that summit, said there was a growing demand for IT and medical professionals in Mauritius. "We hope Karnataka will supply us trained professionals," he said.

Ensuring the safety of foreign employees and a better work environment, the minister said his country is bringing out a policy where employees are not required to pay recruitment fees. "We don't want workers to suffer. We have an ethical work policy and all the fees will be paid by the employer. We want collaboration for transfer of skills," he informed.

**ಆದಿಕವಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ರಾಯಚೂರು
Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur**
ಕೃಷ್ಣ -ತುಂಗ ಆವರಣ, ಮಂತ್ರಾಲಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-167
ಯರಗೇರಾ - 584 133, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

Date:05.11.2025

NOTICE

Raichur University, Raichur (presently Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur) called applications for the direct recruitment of 24 Assistant Professor Posts through the Notification No. RUR/BOA/RCT/ADVT/02, Dated 16.08.2024. The list of ineligible candidates and scores of the eligible candidates(371(J) and Non-371(J))are published on the University website https://raichuruniversity.ac.in/ after the scrutiny of the received applications in accordance with the university statute governing the appointment of the teachers.Objections, if any, may be submitted to the University Email: asmvurboa2024@gmail.com on or before 14.11. 2025 by 5.30 pm. The objections received after this date will not be entertained.

**Sd/- Registrar
Adikavi Shri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur**
DIP/RCR/514/KSMC&A/515/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮುನವಳ್ಳಿ-591117
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_munavalli@yahoo.com ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ನಂ. 08330-277697
ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಪುಸಮು/ಕಾವಿ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(As per 2023 KPPP)

Invitation for the tenders below mentioned Works as per KG-3 Tender Document for Development of Park in Aravind Nagar, Ward No. 8 at Munavalli in Amrut 2.0 Project, Eligible Contractors/Agencies/ Suppliers can submit their tender through KPPP Portal Only.

Sl No	Name of Work / Indent No.	Estimation Cost (in Lakhs)	EMS (in Rs)	Contractor Details
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT51076	69.46	138920	1st Class Civil Contractor

Contractors must read and follow the terms and conditions mentioned before applying :
Starting Date for Tender for Download : 03-11-2025
Last Date and Time for Uploading the Filled Tender : 15-11-2025 Evening 05:15 PM
Tender Opening Date and Time : 17-11-2025 after 5:30 PM
For more details and conditions Applicants may check the following website:
www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC, Munavalli
Sd/- President, TMC, Munavalli

Mortgaged agri land sold...

Bank, From Page 1

"There are many scenarios in which a myriad of frauds happen. One such scenario is when the mortgage is not entered in the Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC). I will have to look into the details," the minister said.

As things stand, for agricultural loans, banks have to update the RTCs with mortgage details through the Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS).

Gowda surmised that the "irregularities" took place before the government made legal changes requiring land-related documents to be fetched digitally during a sale. "Earlier, anybody could generate a physical document. That's not possible now," he said.

According to one Canara Bank official, persons buying encumbered agricultural lands are doing so at a risk.

"Such sales of mortgaged properties are happening everywhere. The usual argument by sub-registrars approving those transactions is that the lien will continue. But it only leads to complexity. The land keeps changing hands and the loan repayment doesn't happen," the official explained.

Agricultural lands are exempted under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act. This means that banks cannot take possession of and auction agricultural land when the borrower defaults on a secured loan.

Banks in Karnataka have reported total NPAs of Rs 55,307 crore. The agriculture sector has NPAs amounting to Rs 23,528 crore, which is 42% of all bad loans.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 05: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.2	19.2	00
Bidar	30.2	21.2	00
Vijayapura	30	21.4	4.8
Dharwad	30	20.5	00
Haveri	30.2	21.4	00
Kalaburagi	30.2	23.4	1.8
Raichur	31.4	22.4	14.6
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.2	23.2	04
Karwar	32.2	23.5	2.1
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.1	23.3	0.5

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	28.5	20.2	00
Bengaluru	28.2	19.6	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.3	20.4	00
Davangere	30	18	00
Hassan	32.1	NA	00
Mysuru	29	17	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.8	18.4	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	31.5	16.5	00
Kolkata	31	21.8	00
Mumbai	31.1	24.6	00
Chennai	35.1	26.8	0.2
Pune	30.4	20.4	00
Hyderabad	31.3	23.2	00
Th'puram	32.7	24.3	00

COUNTER

"The people of Bihar might recall the 'Lathi tel pilawan' rally called by RJD president Lalu Prasad in his heyday. It was a clear signal to his detractors that they were better off cowering inside their homes. The state must beware of the party, which is trying to lure voters through promises but in essence remains the same, wearing new clothes

JP Nadda
BJP national president

V/S

Whenever Modi comes here, he speaks about 'jungle raj'. I will tell you what that is. 'Jungle raj' has been brought in Delhi, by Modi, who is enabling vote theft. He has done so in Maharashtra and Haryana. He wants to do the same in Bihar. But, I am sure that the people of Bihar will defeat his designs"

Rahul Gandhi
Congress leader

THIRD GENDER VOTERS IN BIHAR

Age	Ph 1		Ph 2	Total
18-19 years	8		21	39
20-29 years	281		378	659
30-40 years	283		378	661
41-60 years	130		131	261
60+ years	46		35	81
Overall	758		943	1701

Of the 2,616 candidates in fray, there is **only one third gender** candidate

Jan Suraaj Party has fielded **Priti Kinnar** from Bhorey

Poll diary

Mohiuddinnagar will be renamed if NDA wins: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asserted that the NDA's victory in the Bihar Assembly polls will "wipe away all signs of slavery" and Mohiuddinnagar, a block in Samastipur district, will be renamed "Mohan Nagar". He made the remark at a rally in Mohiuddinnagar constituency. "Brothers and sisters, I urge you to move forward in the direction of renaming Mohiuddinnagar as Mohan Nagar. Let go of all signs of slavery. We did the same in UP, where we renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya and Allahabad as Prayagraj," Adityanath said.

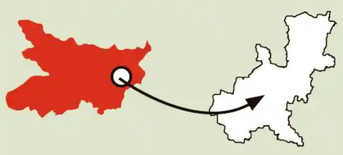
VIP to support RJD rebel contesting against nat'l prez

The Vikassheel Insan Party (VIP) on Tuesday announced its support to a rebel RJD candidate in Bihar who was contesting against its own national president. The announcement was made at a press conference in Darbhanga district by party founder Mukesh Sahni, whose younger brother Santosh, the national president of the VIP, was in the fray from Gaura Boram seat. "We have decided to support Afzal Ali in the polls," said Sahni, who has been promised Deputy CM's post if the I.N.D.I.A bloc came to power in the state.

Modi hails women workers during interaction

Hailing the BJP Bihar women workers, PM Modi said the mantra for polling day should be "pehle matdaan, phir jalpan" (vote first, then breakfast). In a virtual address to the women workers of the party, Modi urged them to bring women voters in large numbers to the polling booths. "I can say with confidence that the NDA is winning with a huge majority and is forming the government again. The people of Bihar have made up their mind that this time they will break a record held in the past 20 years," he said.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



SIWAN

AWADH BIHARI CHOUDHARY
RJD
2020: Won

MANGAL PANDEY
BJP
2020: Did not contest

The Bahubalis who shape Bihar's mandate

From rifles to reels, the state's strongmen rebrand, but their grip on power remains intact

ASHISH PANDEY
MUZAFFARPUR, DHNS

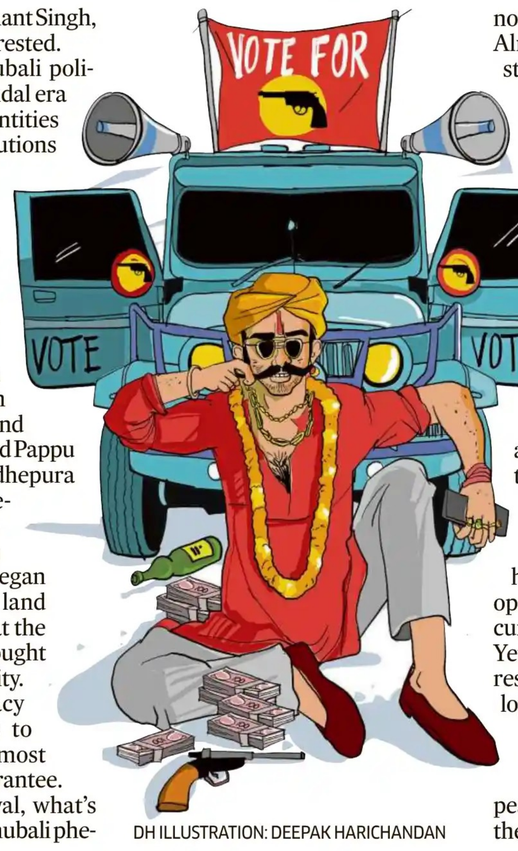
In the political heat of the Bihar elections, one familiar figure continues to stride through the chaos — the 'Bahubali', or muscleman-politician. Once the unmistakable face of power in the state, the Bahubali has traded his rifle for a kurta-clad image makeover. Yet his essence, which is a potent mix of populism, influence, and above all, fear, remains embedded in Bihar's political landscape.

The recent murder of Dularchand Yadav in Mokama has reignited the debate over muscle power in state politics. A local strongman and Jan Suraaj supporter, Yadav was killed during a violent clash amid campaigning. According to the post-mortem report, the cause of death was internal injuries from a blunt object, not a gunshot. After much uproar, JD(U) candidate and former MLA Anant Singh, himself a Bahubali, was arrested.

Bihar's tryst with Bahubali politics began in the post-Mandal era of the 1990s. As caste identities hardened and state institutions weakened, local strongmen emerged as parallel power centres. For many, the Bahubali filled the vacuum left by a retreating state—dispensing 'justice', settling disputes and mobilising caste groups.

Anand Mohan Singh in Kosi, Shahabuddin in Siwan, Surajbhan Singh and Anant Singh near Patna, and Pappu Yadav around Purnea-Madhepura gradually became household names — feared, admired and at times, even worshipped. These dons began by controlling contracts, land and criminal enterprises at the local level. But what they sought most was political immunity. Politics offered legitimacy and unregulated access to resources that even the most feared gang could not guarantee.

More than their survival, what's most curious about the Bahubali phenomenon is their public acceptance. Almost every political party in the state has, at some point, fielded or aligned with such figures. When the local clout of an individual promises a few seats, pragmatism often trumps principle.



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

This acceptance is a moral compromise, built on the premise: "He may have a criminal past, but he gets things done." Even as Nitish Kumar's long tenure is credited with improved governance and better law and order, the political system continues to accommodate remnants of the era that preceded him.

The Bahubali of the 1990s has undergone a makeover. With social and political legitimacy, he speaks the language of development, attends cultural events and curates his presence on social media. Yet beneath the surface, his clout still rests on the same time-tested pillars: loyalty, money and power.

He's seen distributing flood relief, starring in funny reels and delivering speeches on harmony and peace at political rallies. But behind the curtain, he continues doing what he knows best — maintaining and expanding his empire of fear.

Even in these elections, several constituencies feature candidates or influencers whose reputations hinge as much on past notoriety as present pragmatism. Their image has evolved — from crude displays of force to subtler forms of control: over local contracts, caste associations and even the delivery of welfare schemes.

In present-day Bihar, Bahubalis have turned politics into a family enterprise, where muscle functions as generational wealth, compounding year after year. Even if they are not directly in the fray, they ensure that wives, sons, brothers or loyalists become lawmakers, often under the banners of major parties.

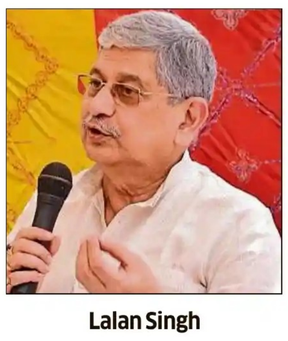
Why do voters elect them?

It often comes down to one question: Who is the saviour? And more often than not, the answer isn't the State. It's the local strongman.

Bahubalis built their aura through muscle, but now they maintain it through the ballot. The muscle may have softened, but the Bahubali mind — the instinct to command loyalty through control — still pulses through Bihar's political bloodstream.

FIR against Union minister for 'threatening' voters

Poll body issues notice, asks him to respond within 24 hours; Oppn parties demand strict action



Lalan Singh

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Taking umbrage over blatant violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), the Election Commission on Tuesday issued a notice to the Union Minister and Nitish Kumar's closest aide, Lalan Singh, for his controversial remarks in Mokama, asking him to respond within 24 hours.

The Patna administration said an FIR has also been registered against Lalan under relevant sections of the Representation of the People's Act.

In the viral video, Lalan could be heard asking his supporters to "ensure these people do not turn up to vote. Lock them up inside their homes. And if at all, they beg before you with folded hands to allow them to vote, then accompany them to the polling booth and ask them to go off to sleep after voting."

He was referring to the downtrodden voters of the area.

Lalan, who belongs to the upper caste Bhumihar community, was canvassing for his fellow casteman and JD(U) nominee from Mokama, Anant Singh, who was arrested on Sunday in the murder case of Jan Suraaj supporter Dularchand Yadav.

Strong protest

In response, the RJD lodged a strong protest with the poll body, demanding strict action for "arm-twisting and threatening the poor voters."

Sharing a video, it accused Lalan of "running a bulldozer on the chest of the EC", in an oblique reference to how Dularchand was allegedly run over by Anant's men last week.

Assuring everyone that he has taken up the cudgels on behalf of "Anant Babu", Lalan further said, "I am here till elections and will work here in the absence of Anant Babu, who is a law-abiding citizen and got himself arrested... One Anant has been arrested. But I appeal to all of you to turn into an Anant and ensure the victory of the JD(U) candidate."

RJD spokesperson Priyanka Bharti urged the Election Commission to "wake up from the slumber, verify the remarks made by the Union minister and take appropriate action."

BIHAR VOTES

In Digha, Divya shuns Sushant link

SATISH JHA
PATNA, DHNS

In her constituency, many recognise her as the cousin of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, an identity 33-year-old Divya Gautam has consciously chosen not to leverage for political gain. She says invoking her late brother's name would go against her principles.

Divya, the CPI(ML) Liberation candidate from Digha — a constituency that largely falls within Patna city — is contesting as part of the I.N.D.I.A bloc. She is one of 20 candidates fielded by the Communist Party. In 2020, the party had contested 19 seats and won 12, a performance seen as a resurgence of the Left in Bihar.

At the Punaichak vegetable market, Divya was scheduled to address a rally. On the ground, four volunteers, including two women (one from Jharkhand) and a youngster from Delhi, were distributing pamphlets. The pamphlets described her as the Mahagathbandhan candidate from the Digha seat, featuring images of leaders from the Congress, RJD and other alliance partners.

"We know her as the candidate backed by the lantern (RJD symbol), and that she is the cousin sister of actor Sushant Singh. Beyond that, we don't know much," said three middle-aged men seated under an under-construction shop.

Divya had to cancel the Punaichak stop due to traffic snarls caused by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow at the same time. She later addressed her final event at Digha Bazar, where CPI(ML) L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya joined her.

Bhattacharya and his party have been targeting the BJP–JD(U)-led NDA over a range of issues, including the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav with Divya Gautam, the CPI(ML)L candidate from Digha Assembly seat. PTI

"I think people from across communities are supporting us. We are raising issues that matter — education, health, migration," Divya said.

Asked why she chose not to invoke Sushant Singh's name, she told *DH*, "He is an inspiration to me... this is a personal loss, and that's why I would never politicise it." Without naming anyone, she said, "These people have no heart. In 2020, they politicised the issue and tried to use it. Once done, they discarded it like a Tetra Pak. These are people who do politics over dead bodies."

Divya is contesting against two-term BJP MLA Sanjiv Chaurasia.

Lalu, Rabri campaign

In a surprise move on Tuesday, former CM Lalu Prasad hit the campaign trail in support of Divya, holding a roadshow from his car. In a short video clip shared by Divya, Lalu is faintly heard urging voters to help her win.

Digha has a sizeable Yadav voter base traditionally loyal to the RJD. The seat also has a strong presence of the Kayastha community, which has largely backed the NDA in previous polls.

BOOTH-BOUND

Polling officials leave for their booths after collecting election material from a distribution centre in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

One in four Bihar poll candidates face serious criminal charges

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

One in every four candidates contesting the Bihar Assembly elections in the second phase has serious criminal cases against them, while 73, or 60%, of the 122 seats are dubbed 'red alert' constituencies with three or more candidates having criminal cases registered against them, according to an election watchdog.

There are also 562 crorepati candidates, the Association for Democratic Reforms said in its report, which is based on an analysis of affidavits of 1,297 out of 1,302 candidates released on Tuesday. Around 354, or 27%, of the 1,303 candidates analysed in phase one of the elections had serious criminal cases, and 519 were crorepatis, while 91 of 121 seats were dubbed 'red alert' constituencies.

The report showed that 341, or 26%, of the candidates in phase 2 have serious criminal cases against them, of which 19 have murder cases, 79 have attempted murder cases, and 52 have cases related to crimes against women. Three candidates have rape cases against them.

The Jan Suraaj Party topped the list with 51 such candidates, followed by the RJD with 27, BJP 22, Congress 20, and JD(U) 11.

POLITICAL SHIFT

Together for a stronger, unified Northeast

ANALYSIS

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Despite being part of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), three political parties, including two prominent allies of NDA in the Northeast—National People's Party (NPP) and Tipra Motha—on Tuesday decided to float a 'united singular political entity'.

Cracks in NEDA

Party insiders told *DH* that 'growing indifference' by the BJP towards the local issues prompted the move.

The schism within NEDA began with the Meitei-Kuki conflict in Manipur in 2023, which saw the NPP and the Mizo National Front (MNF), another partner, openly questioning CM Biren Singh's leadership. The NPP withdrew its support from the Biren government, while the MNF demanded his resignation.

NEDA convenor and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was proactive till the Assembly elections in Manipur in 2022, distanced himself from the crisis and did not use the NEDA forum to ensure support of NDA partners to the Biren government.

This, according to BJP insiders in Manipur, practically left the NEDA non-functional in the state and the rest of the Northeast.

Conrad Sangma, according to sources, was also unhappy with the Sarma government over the passage of two new acts—one to curb the transportation of cattle in 2021 and another to prohibit healing practices by Christians in 2024.

NEDA was also not seen taking steps to address the growing discontent between the BJP and Tipra Motha in Tripura over the delay in the implementation of the Tipra Accord (signed in 2024). Tipra Motha has been demanding land rights for the indigenous communities and steps to address the 'identity crisis' posed by migrants from Bangladesh. Tipra Motha and NPP are also against the CAA.

"We, leaders from different states of the Northeast, have come together today to make a collective and historic announcement, i.e., the coming together of various voices of our region to form a united singular political entity that truly represents the aspirations of our people

— Joint statement by NPP, Tipra Motha & People's Party

In Nagaland, two NEDA partners—Naga People's Front and Nationlist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)— also merged last month. BJP, NPF and NDPP are part of the People's Democratic Front government. Regional parties wants a 'respectable' solution to Naga conflict.

Conrad Sangma stressed the need for unity to raise the issues of the Northeast with the Central government.

"We need a strong and united voice for issues such as the threats posed by illegal migrants, land rights for the indigenous communities, and frequent violations of the powers of the autonomous councils. Since we do not have so many seats in the Lok Sabha, we need a united voice to push the BJP to change decisions considered harmful by people in the Northeast," a leader in Tipra Motha, told *DH*.

The new forum is also likely to approach BJP's allies in Assam, Bodoland People's Front, and United People's Party Liberal.

DMK reinstates Ponmudy as deputy general secretary

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Senior leader K Ponmudy, who was removed as deputy general secretary in April for comparing Hindu Shaivite and Vaishnavite religious symbols to sexual positions, was on Tuesday reappointed to the post.

Information and Tamil Development Minister M P Saminathan was also appointed as a deputy general secretary, taking the number of people occupying the post to seven. Others occupying the post are Kanimozhi, A Raja, Tiruchi Siva, I Periyasamy, and Anthiyur P Selvaraj.

In a statement, Stalin said Ponmudy, one of the senior leaders who was also sacked from the Cabinet after the controversy, and Saminathan will hold the posts.

Ponmudy fell out of the good books of the top brass after his speech at an event on April 6 stoked a major controversy by comparing Hindu Shaivite and Vaishnavite religious symbols to sexual positions.

He was immediately sacked as a deputy general secretary of the DMK and later from the cabinet.

The changes come ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

Expelled AIADMK leader Manoj Pandian joins DMK

Legislator P H Manoj Pandian, who was expelled from the AIADMK in 2022 after he owed allegiance to former chief minister O Panneerselvam, on Tuesday joined the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), reports DHNS.

Manoj Pandian, the MLA from Alangulam in Tirunelveli district, is the third AIADMK leader to join the DMK in the past few months after Anwar Raajah and Dr V Maitreyan, who cited the party's alliance with the BJP as the reason to quit.

DECCAN HERALD
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A deadly cycle of errors and neglect

Stampedes happen in India with alarming frequency, and they continue to be seen as accidents, like the ones that happen on our roads. But stampedes are not accidental and are caused by predictable, controllable factors, like many road accidents are. The stampede at a temple in Srikakulam, in Andhra Pradesh, which led to the death of at least nine people, mostly women and children, was also preventable. This year, India has lost scores of lives in stampedes – from the Kumbh tragedy through incidents at the New Delhi railway station, the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, and a political rally in Karur. There have been other incidents that claimed fewer lives or were not reported.

Stampedes are invariably traced to overcrowding, poor preparedness, inadequate infrastructure, and lapses in safety and security arrangements, though the triggers could be different in each case. The Srikakulam incident is reported to have happened when a railing erected for crowd control collapsed. It caused people to fall off stairs, leading to chaos and trampling. The newly built, privately-owned temple received on Saturday five times the number of devotees it receives on a normal day – the railings and barricades in place were not enough to control the movement of people. The administration and the police have said they were not informed of the event, but it is their responsibility to take note of unusual crowding and ensure that order is maintained. The statement of the owner of the temple that it was "an act of God" shows how such incidents are viewed by many.

Recurring stampedes have not led to better preparedness; enforcement of guidelines remains weak

Guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority and in the National Building Code comprise norms and courses of action to prevent stampedes and to handle them if they occur. Law enforcement personnel undergo training to tackle such situations. Still, these incidents keep occurring. Most of the stampedes happen in religious congregations, political rallies, and entertainment venues. The organisers often fail to assess the crowd volume, and even when they do, facilities to ensure orderly movement fall short. Crowd control is often left to untrained volunteers, and the authorities are found wanting in discharging their responsibilities. After every major stampede, inquiries are instituted, but punishment for lapses is rare. The fallout does not inform preparedness, lessons are not learnt, and the cycle of mishaps continues. Investigations are also found to be politicised, as in the case of the Karur stampede, failing to fix accountability and delaying the truth. Deterrence is key – the approach has to shift from an acceptance of inevitability to strong preventive measures backed up by quick follow-through action against the offenders.

Logged out: Where governance loads slow

The chaos over the rollout of the SmartLock software for learner's licences (LL) has once again exposed a chronic malaise that afflicts Karnataka's digital governance. Regional Transport Offices across the state have reported a sharp drop in LL applications, with Chitradurga district witnessing an 80% fall. What was touted as a security upgrade to prevent impersonation has ended up locking out thousands of genuine applicants. That an IT-powered solution has created such inconvenience in the country's technology capital is both ironic and alarming. The SmartLock software, designed to ensure tamper-proof online tests, is plagued by crashes and authentication failures. As a result, citizens are forced to spend hours on futile retries, lose fees, and face endless frustration.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. Major online initiatives by the state – the e-Khata system, Seva Sindhu, the social and educational survey app, Kaveri 2.0 – have suffered operational glitches. The e-Khata portal, meant to bring transparency, forced citizens to run from pillar to post, some even paying hefty bribes to "speed up" digital approvals. Property tax payments routinely fail; Seva Sindhu freezes, and Kaveri 2.0 goes offline for days. The survey app crashed repeatedly, causing serious distress among enumerators. Though the general public had the option to assess themselves, the systems did not present adequate support, leaving out many who missed the enumerators' visits. Such design flaws routinely exclude a large number of users, undermining the promise of inclusive governance.

Patchy delivery of e-services highlights tech gaps and undermines the idea of inclusive governance

This recurring pattern raises a fundamental question: are these failures technical or human? Ideally, efficient digital systems should reduce human interface and minimise opportunities for corruption. Is that why their rollouts are often half-baked, without proper testing or feedback loops? Or is the state's e-governance department simply out of its depth despite the wealth of IT talent surrounding it? Either way, it is distressing to note that a state known as India's IT hub cannot deliver basic citizen services online without repeated meltdowns. Why does the Karnataka government fall short even with such impressive resources? The government must learn from successful models such as the passport system and the Income Tax portal. IT Minister Priyank Kharge must take personal responsibility to urgently fix these broken systems and restore public confidence. A state that powers global technology should not falter at home. It is time for Karnataka to build robust, reliable digital platforms that inspire the nation instead of applications that collapse under their own code.

THE STATE OF UNCHANGE

In Bihar, past is wrapped in a promise of youth

Despite the young voter's centrality, the state's new-generation leaders are sticking to old, trite poll narratives

LT GEN BHOPINDER SINGH (RETD)

A disproportionately large number of bureaucrats and politicians with national relevance are from Bihar. Many of them have been trailblazers and can be seen working in the remotest parts of the country. The popular saying *ek Bihari, sab pe bhari* translates to 'a singular Bihari can outweigh all others', implying their fortitude and resilience. Historically, the likes of Chandragupta Maurya, Samrat Ashoka, and Chanakya have left an indelible imprint. The region has been a fount of wisdom with the likes of Vatsyayana and Aryabhata; profound spiritualists like Gautama Buddha and Mahavira have added incalculably to the Indian consciousness.

The world's oldest residential university – Nalanda – was founded in the 5th Century CE and at one time had over 10,000 students from distant lands like Japan, Mongolia, China, and Myanmar. This ancient (and modern) backdrop should have lent itself to a progressive and well-developed socio-economic status for a state in independent India. Unfortunately, that is not the case, as Bihar languishes at the bottom with similarly struggling states in dealing with pertinent issues like multidimensional poverty, employment, and social inequities.

Bihar is also said to be one of the youngest states, with an estimated 57% population under the age of 25. This demographic dividend, however, is offset by the fact that Bihar also has the highest dependency ratio among Indian states. Therefore, the state is expected to prioritise serious challenges like a dearth of employment opportunities, low participation of women in the workforce, and shortcomings in sectors such as education, health, and skilling. Except, it hasn't.

In a participative democracy, the recurrence of the election cycle offers an invaluable opportunity to evaluate alternative plans of political parties and to choose the most robust among them. But have we reached that maturity to make such informed choices amongst alternative political persuasions? Does a state like Bihar go beyond the rote, regressive, and polarising agendas of caste, religion, and regionalism? The sad answer, despite the abundance of the inherent wisdom of the land and youth centricity in politics, is that it remains stuck in a language of yesterday. If the campaign pitches, espousals, and passions surrounding the Assembly election are anything to go by, there is little hope for real transformation of the state's governance narrative.

Ironically, this election is marked by the presence of youngsters at the helm of political groupings – from the leader of the opposition Mahagathbandhan, Tejashwi Yadav, at 35 years, to the leader of the 'third alternative' Prashant Kishor, at 48 years. The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is similarly sprinkled with the likes of Samrat Choudhary, at 56, and Chirag Paswan, at 43, besides a slew of retained and debutant candidates who are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Flawed narratives of reform

They ought to be representing a different generational purpose. Their participation ought to fructify the maxim that when young minds join politics, old problems find new solutions. But the Indian experience shows no relevant space afforded to such generational cadres; they are often reduced to being trophy candidates, only to create an optical illusion of 'youthfulness'.

Take the example of 25-year-old Maithili Thakur, a precocious singing talent who represents the so-called 'double engine' possibility with a BJP nomination. As an exceptionally gifted and young artiste, she has the opportunity to infuse new vision, perspective, and dynamism as a woman from the relatively backward constituency of Alinagar (Darbhanga district). But besides playing the tired card of nativism and regionalist pride, as exemplified by the name Maithili and the region of Mithila, she has suggested as "reform" the renaming of Alinagar to Sitanagar.

This barely hides the age-old attempt of societal divide-and-rule. She has also confirmed absolute compliance with her party – "I am here just to support them. I will do whatever the party orders."

The decidedly more politically astute and experienced Chirag Paswan had promised, ahead of the 2020 poll, a grand new Sita temple. There is fiscal ridiculousness in Tejashwi Yadav's electoral promise to guarantee each family in the state a government job. That such a move would cost at least Rs 12 lakh crore for a state with a total budget of Rs 3 lakh crore has been conveniently left unexplained. Credence was thrown to the winds as Tejashwi merrily usurped a Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose slogan with his own campaign twist, "*Tum mujhe vote do, main tumhe naukri dunga*" (Give me your vote, I will give you jobs).

Even someone like Prashant Kishor has promised to lift the liquor ban "within one hour" of forming the government in the state. The claims about jobs and economic growth mark a shift in poll narratives in the state. That the promised scenario requires unrealistic levels of industrial investment and growth for which there are no credible plans makes these mere empty promises by Bihar's 'youth' politicians.

Irrespective of who wins the Bihar election, the practical storyline of the state is unlikely to change, as its so-called young politicians will continue pandering to more of the same, ignoring real needs and aspirations, posturing with vacuous promises of change.

(The writer is a former Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Just lather, that's all

I was not a policeman. I was not a soldier. I was simply a teacher

BASAVARAJ DONUR

I often return, in the quiet of memory, to a story I read decades ago – a story that pressed deeply upon my conscience and still rests, unbroken, in the chambers of my subconscious. The title of the story is *Just Lather, That's All*. Whoever reads it is bound to carry away both its message and its melody of plot.

It is the tale of a barber – a man with a razor in hand and a revolution in his heart. He serves a secret cause, nursing silence in the face of tyranny.

One day, the captain of a military unit – ordered to crush the rebellion – enters the barbershop, calm, unsuspecting, his revolver hanging carelessly on a hook, his beard offered to the blade of the very man who dreams of his death.

As the barber prepares his lather, a storm brews in his mind. The razor trembles between two paths – justice or betrayal, vengeance or vocation. Can a barber cut the throat of the man who sits before him unarmed? Can he kill a customer who comes only seeking the simple ritual of a shave, even if that man is his arch-enemy? Would he not, in that single act, sever his own professional soul?

The moral conflict burns through him; philosophy wrestles with passion until, at last, duty steadies his hand. "All that I can do is apply lather and shave my customer," he whispers to himself.

When the captain rises to leave, he looks the barber in the eye and says softly, "Killing is not as easy as it seems." Often I wonder: isn't the work of a teacher like the work of a barber? The barber wields foam and blade; the teacher, blackboard and pencil.

The barber can cut a throat with his razor; the teacher can wound a spirit with his pen. I too once faced such a moment, a razor's edge of decision. Two scholars in my department forged their signatures in the attendance register so that one might roam free while the other sat confined to class.

I called them to my cabin. I laid before them two paths: confess, admit your fault, tender an unconditional apology – and, as a one-time grace, you shall be forgiven. But if you deny, I shall order an inquiry, and if guilt is proven, your names shall be struck from the rolls of the university. I added gently, yet firmly: "I know the truth already. What you have done is not a small error; it is a crime – a sin against trust."

They looked at me, realising they had been caught, their courage crumbling. They bowed their heads, admitted their wrong, and pleaded for forgiveness.

And though part of me burnt with anger, longing to punish them, another voice rose within me – the promise I had made, the memory of who I was. I was not a policeman. I was not a soldier. I was simply a teacher.

And so, with the gentleness of lather, I forgave my students.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Digital arrests: An alarming trend

This refers to 'SC: Rs 3,000 cr extorted in digital arrest cases' (Nov 4). It is appalling that criminals have managed to swindle as much as Rs 3,000 crore from their victims by placing them under so-called 'digital arrest' for crimes they never committed. Despite repeated awareness campaigns and advertisements in both print and electronic media clarifying that 'digital arrest' does not exist under the IPC or the BNS, the gullible continue to be coerced into believing they will soon be arrested unless they remit money to avoid such an outcome. The perpetrators of these crimes seem to have an uncanny ability to identify vulnerable targets, most often senior citizens who easily succumb to such threats. There is an urgent need for greater public awareness, as victims are sometimes held under duress for months until their savings are completely drained, leaving them in penury.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

SIR is good

While Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has decided to approach the Supreme Court to stall the SIR exercise by the Election Commission, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has taken her preferred route of street protest. Several other states too are opposing the revision. While critics may fear a dent in their vote banks, the exercise itself should be allowed to proceed with proper safeguards. Voter list revisions are a routine activity undertaken by the Election Commission every few years to remove the names of the deceased and ineligible voters. This has been done in the past without the resistance we see today. Such revisions are essential to ensure a clean and credible electoral process. Unfortunately, some present-day leaders are twisting the issue to mislead the public for their own political gains. Their protests are nothing but an obstruction to the legitimate functioning of the EC. People should not fall prey to such misleading propaganda.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Marred by violence

Apropos 'JD(U) candidate held for murder; EC vows peaceful poll' (Nov 3), it is shocking that poll-bound Bihar has once again revealed its violent side with the first killing of this election. The don-turned-politician Anant Singh, also known as "Chhote Sarkar", the JD(U) candidate from Mokama, allegedly gunned down Dularchand Yadav, a supporter of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj candidate Piyush Priyadarshi, on October 30. This may well be just the beginning.

M Basavaraj, Davangere

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

You (BJP's Suvendu Adhikari and Sukanta Majumdar) come to Dankuni without CISF. You come with your men, and we will come with our men. We will see how big a *baper beta* (son of his father) you are. You won't return from here.

Kalyan Banerjee, TMC MP

Threats are the last resort of a man with no vocabulary.

Tamora Pierce

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Laos calling: Can India raise its game?

China's regional policy leverages infrastructure for influence. India's track must run on inclusion and soft power

PRIYAN R NAIK

Sitting in the high-speed train from Luang Prabang to Vientiane, I could contemplate how China's actions in Laos reflected its wider neighbourhood policy. The train carried not just passengers but a clear message on how China sees its neighbourhood, using connectivity as a means of control, infrastructure as influence and economic partnership as political leverage. Referred to as the 'China Train' in Laos, linking China to the Lao capital Vientiane, the Laos-China Railway (LCR) is a physical expression of Beijing's neighbourhood policy, binding smaller countries into its economic and strategic orbit through steel and finance.

This was China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in action, weaving together South, Central, and Southeast Asia through transport, energy and digital corridors that originate in China and radiate outward. Laos, small and landlocked, seemed to be a model laboratory for this policy. The $6-billion LCR is 70% financed by China's Exim Bank and built largely by Chinese state firms forming the spine of a railway network that will eventually connect China to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore.

By turning Laos from "landlocked" to "land-linked," China has effectively redrawn the geopolitics of the Mekong. My journey would take me only two hours as opposed to the 7-10 hours required earlier. Freight movement between China and Vientiane now takes less than 10 hours, cutting costs by up to 40%. Over seven million tonnes of cargo were moved in 2024, and Chinese goods dominate Lao markets. Vientiane's new skyline is dotted with Chinese banks, hotels, and real-estate projects mirroring the physical and economic imprint of Beijing's neighbourhood outreach.

Easily discernible in Laos, Chinese financing locks countries into long-term debt and technical reliance, the economic entrenchment ensuring China is the indispensable partner for trade, hydropower, and investment. Laos was becoming not just a corridor for goods, but a corridor for Chinese influence.

Several regional projects follow the Laos pattern, the infrastructure financed and controlled by Beijing, both actions wrapped in a narrative of regional development. In Myanmar, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor connects Yunnan to the Bay of Bengal at Kyaukphyu. In Cambodia, Chinese firms are building highways, power plants, and a deep-sea port at Sihanoukville. In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) anchors Chinese access to the Arabian Sea.

Dominance or diversity?

So what is India's neighbourhood vision? India does have a neighbourhood policy, though of a different nature. New Delhi seeks a region linked by cooperation rather than dependence. While China builds corridors to consolidate its supply chains, Indian corridors open access and trust.

India's ties with Laos date back to Buddhism's spread from the Gangetic plains to the Mekong valley. Yet today, the contrast with China is striking. Sino-Lao trade exceeds $3.5 billion annually; India's trade clocks around $250 million. India has offered over $100 million in lines of credit for power transmission and irrigation, and runs training programmes under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework. Small ripples beside China's flood of capital. India lacks both direct connectivity (I flew to Bangkok to catch a train to Vientiane – no direct flights from India to Vientiane exist) and large-scale investment vehicles comparable to China's state banks.

India's regional policy has tools that can extend up to Laos. It can leverage private enterprise, transparency and technology, unlike China's state-driven approach. The export of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar) to partner countries can give Laos a low-cost digital backbone. Educational partnerships and Buddhist circuits, linking Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Luang Prabang, can strengthen India's moral influence in the region. Sub-regional bodies such as BIMSTEC and the MGC could provide diplomatic platforms to deepen trade and cultural engagement with Laos and its ASEAN neighbours.

The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, once complete, could be extended through northern Thailand into Laos, linking Vientiane by road to India's Northeast. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, connecting Kolkata port to Mizoram via Myanmar's Sittwe, can serve as India's eastern gateway to the Mekong.

India can combine physical connectivity, digital integration, and cultural diplomacy into one coherent neighbourhood policy. If China's neighbourhood policy binds the region through infrastructure, India's policy can liberate it through inclusivity. Laos should be wary of Chinese overreach and choose between two visions, one based on dominance, the other on diversity. India can offer a different path, a partnership that empowers rather than entraps. If New Delhi can turn its rhetoric into active engagement, the track of influence in Laos need not all lead north to China. It could yet turn towards India.

(The writer is adjunct faculty, St Joseph's College – Pondicherry University MBA Twinning Programme)

Once a model of reform, Karnataka's politics drifts away from governance

A RAVINDRA

Karnataka has been witnessing a political drama, with the chief minister's *gaddi* as its central theme. Who will be the next CM? Will the present incumbent continue? Apart from the deputy chief minister — the original contender—other aspirants have thrown their hats into the ring.

The recently concluded caste census, meant to identify the more socially and economically deprived groups, seems instead to have reinforced the salience of caste in society and politics. This has been starkly reflected in different caste groups asserting their right to occupy the chief minister's chair.

With political leaders preoccupied with power struggles, governance has clearly taken a back seat. It is said that politics happens during elections and governance between elections. In Karnataka, that distinction seems lost. Interestingly, the conflicts we see today are largely intra-party rather than between the ruling and opposition parties—the latter content with taking jibes at the former's inability to manage its internal battles.

Meanwhile, there is a flurry of activity in the state capital. The Bengaluru Development Minister is rushing through large infrastructure projects-- tunnel roads and flyovers costing nearly Rs 20,000 crore, white-topping of roads and pothole filling —ignoring citizen's protests and expert opinions. However, the deputy chief minister undertakes walks interacting with people and later declares that no one can stop him from implementing any project, except God. One hopes the Hon'ble Judges take note. Either way, the people's voice clearly doesn't count.

The newly constituted Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which has replaced the elected BBMP, has centralised all powers, flouting the constitutional mandate to devolve authority to urban local bodies (ULBs) and vest planning authority in the Metropolitan Planning Committee. That this was done in the absence of an elected local body-- and therefore without consulting grassroots representatives constituting the first tier of governance --undermines the very spirit of democracy.

It is claimed that the GBA is modelled on the Greater London Authority (LGA). There is, however, a fundamental difference between the two. The GLA is an elected body, headed by a mayor directly elected by the people. It functions democratically, presided over by the Greater London Assembly, which acts as a check on the Mayor, ensuring transparency and accountability. The GLA focuses on three key areas -- strategic planning, transport, and policing. The policies of the mayor are detailed in the 'London Plan', which is regularly updated and published. The municipal and civic services in the Greater London area are delivered by the 32 London Borough Councils. The GBA, by contrast, is dominated by government nominees, with scant public oversight.

A recent *CIVIC Bengaluru Manifesto Report Card* paints a bleak picture. Of the 134 promises made by the ruling Congress Party in its manifesto, only 6.7% have been fulfilled. Excluding guarantees, the figure drops to a mere 3.1% across the seven key domains: education, health, mining, forests and environment protection, urban development, Namma Bengaluru, administration and governance. Appallingly, over half the promises (54.5%) show no work started, with the urban development sector faring worst -- 70% of its commitments untouched-- followed by health, administration and governance at 64.3%.

On Bengaluru, the report is damning: "Undemocratic, unplanned, unsustainable" governance -- citing delayed municipal elections and the unconstitutional GBA Act. The state is also staring at a fiscal crisis. For three consecutive years since the launch of guarantees, Karnataka has run a revenue deficit and is dangerously close to breaching the Fiscal Responsibility Act limit, with debt liabilities at 24.9% of GSDP against the prescribed limit of 25%. Unless remedial measures are taken, Karnataka's reputation for prudent financial management could be at risk.

Ironically, while Bihar — long seen as dominated by caste politics—in the ongoing election campaigns talks of *sushasan* (good governance) and *samajik nyay* (social justice), unemployment and debt traps, Karnataka seems to be regressing. In the 1970s and 1980s, leaders like Devaraj Urs and Ramakrishna Hegde championed social justice and decentralisation of power.

Today, those ideals appear to have been replaced by caste arithmetic and political expediency -- a telling sign of deteriorating political and ethical standards.

Ethics and integrity are central to accountability and trust in governance. Yet, these values are increasingly absent from political discourse. The Second Administrative Commission, headed by Veerappa Moily, in its report, Ethics in Governance, had recommended an ethical framework for ministers, legislators and the judiciary, following which an Ethics Committee was constituted in the Lok Sabha in 2015 to formulate a code of conduct for its members. The code has yet to see the light of day.

To strengthen accountability and restore public confidence, the Commission's recommendation to set up Ethics Committees should be extended to the state level as well. Such committees can play a significant role in promoting transparency and reinforcing the foundations of good governance.

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

Meet your artificial intelligence matchmakers. These AI tools are changing dating apps, so users don't have to swipe through an endless scroll of profiles

ELI TAN

NYT

No need to swipe right. AI is transforming dating apps

After swiping aimlessly for years on dating apps like Hinge and Tinder, Emma Inge, a 25-year-old project manager in San Francisco, decided to try something different. In September, after following an ad to the website of a startup called Known, Inge spent 20 minutes confiding in an artificial intelligence matchmaker. The matchmaker — essentially an AI chatbot —asked her over a phone call what she was looking for in a partner, and she relayed her preferences (athletic) and red flags (codependent).

A week later, a notification popped up on her phone. She had a match, and for a one-time fee of $25, she could meet him at a bar.

"With how dating is nowadays, I thought, 'Oh, well, let's try it,'" Inge said. "Let's do it for the plot."

Her experience is an example of how AI is transforming the dating app industry. As startups with AI matchmakers pop up, the biggest dating apps—Hinge, Tinder, Bumble and Grindr—are trying to harness the technology to reinvent themselves. They are ushering in a new era of online dating in which people pay for a few premium AI matches a week, instead of subscribing to an endless stream of profiles.

"AI is already playing a big role in our business, but I think it has the potential to be a step change—the next technological shift," Hesam Hosseini, chief operating officer of Match Group, which owns Hinge and Tinder, said in an interview.

The change could not come at a better time for dating apps, many of which have been struggling. Most of the apps have let users create free accounts with the option to pay for perks like unlimited swipes. But satisfaction with the apps has sunk and so has the number of people willing to pay for them. (Most subscriptions cost around $30 a month.)

Over the last year, Bumble lost 9% of its paid subscribers, while Match Group lost 5%, even as both grew their total number of users. While paying subscribers are a tiny slice of users, they generate a large portion of profits. The 20% of Match Group users that pay for features and subscriptions account for 97% of revenue.

Match Group's shares have plunged 80% from their 2021 high, while Bumble's stock is down 90% from its initial public offering that year. The two companies account for the majority of the dating app market.

The dating apps have run into a hurdle the industry calls "the cycle of despair." That's when people download a dating app, get burned out from swiping or getting "ghosted," and then delete it, only to re-download it months later.

A shift toward AI matchmakers, Hosseini said, would be reminiscent of the early days of online dating when websites like eHarmony asked users 80 questions about themselves to create a profile.

While many startups offer AI matchmakers, the larger apps are just beginning to unveil their own versions. Tinder is testing an AI matching service called Chemistry, which it plans to expand this month. Users would be able to give the app access to their camera roll, which the AI would scan to learn more about them. The service would initially be free, though Tinder could begin charging for it later.

Grindr, a dating app for gay men, has also unveiled six AI features that it calls gAI (pronounced gay-eye). They include an AI "wingman" that gives advice about conversations, an AI tool that can reintroduce old matches and AI-generated summaries of people's profiles. Grindr plans to bundle the most popular features in a premium subscription tier, said George Arison, the CEO.

Hinge, with around 15 million users, uses an AI tool to give people feedback on their profiles. This year, the company reprogrammed its matching algorithm with generative AI to better learn about user preferences, which has raised the number of matches by 15%, Hosseini said.

Bumble said it planned to release an AI matchmaking app by the end of the year, adding that it hadn't finalised a business model yet but might charge per match.

The major dating app companies are internally testing other AI tools that may never be released, including dating coaches that can provide feedback and advice after each date and AI clones that can date each other and report the findings to their human makers. Facebook Dating, the dating service in the Facebook app, recently introduced an AI feature that lets users describe their ideal match — brunette, works in tech, lives in New York City — to connect them with real people who fit that description.

Facebook dating is a surprise hit for the social network. Facebook Dating, which debuted in 2019, has become a surprise hit for the company. It lets people create a dating profile free in the app, where they can swipe and match with other eligible singles. It has more than 21 million daily users, quietly making it one of the most popular online dating services. Hinge, a leading dating app in the US, has around 15 million users. Facebook Dating's popularity is a sign of how Facebook has been reinventing itself. Its main social feed has become less popular over time than younger apps like Instagram and TikTok.

But the companies are also wrestling with a growing resistance to AI "slop" and unwanted automation. Hinge, for instance, does not brand its AI features as AI.

Many of the changes have come under new leadership. Last winter, Match Group hired Spencer Rascoff, a co-founder of Zillow, as its CEO. He promptly reorganised the company and personally oversees Tinder. Whitney Wolfe Herd, who founded Bumble in 2014 and left the company in 2024, returned as CEO in March.

"This is not a fad," Wolfe Herd said of AI dating at a tech conference last year. "We're going to lean in fast and furiously."

As dating app companies grapple with the changes, some investors see opportunity. Among other moves, Francisco Partners and Permira, two private equity firms, have reached out to dating apps including Bumble and Grindr about buying them, two people with knowledge of the matter said. They indicated that they wanted to build a portfolio of around six apps to rival Match Group, the people said.

Francisco Partners and Permira declined to comment.

Known, the startup with the AI matchmaker, was founded in May by Celeste Amadon, 22, and Asher Allen, 21, who dropped out of Stanford to start the company. They and a group of psychologists came up with the AI matchmaker's questions.

Paying per date rather than a monthly subscription was "more incentivising to actually get people out in the real world and on dates," Amadon said, adding that Known has hosted 10 singles nights in San Francisco with more than 200 attendees each.

Inge, the project manager in San Francisco, said she had signed up for Hinge and Tinder in college but rarely found meaningful connections. She was now "generally anti-dating app," she said, and has tried meeting people in the wild. She even signed up for a 6 am running club to socialise, which did not work. That led her to try Known.

For her blind AI-produced date last month, Inge said, she went to a San Francisco bar and was pleasantly surprised by the encounter. She and her date talked for two hours, bonding over a shared interest in public transportation and new restaurants. He worked for a robot taxi company, and was "the type of guy to sign up for an AI matchmaker," she said.

They exchanged numbers to arrange a second date — which never happened. Inge said she was ghosted.

"That was the kick of it, that the AI actually did find compatibility," she said. "It was the human part that didn't work out."

The New York Times

Taking the game beyond the boundary

MOUSUMI ROY

When India's women in blue lifted the ICC World Cup, the moment transcended sport. It was more than a trophy -- it was a generational triumph built on grit, grace, and perseverance. For decades, these athletes fought for space in a game that rarely made room for them. Their victory is a testament to endurance, belief, and the steady march towards gender equality in Indian sport.

For years, women's cricket in India existed on the periphery. Matches drew little media attention, sponsorships were scarce, and many players juggled jobs to afford travel and training. Pioneers like Diana Edulji, Shantha Rangaswamy, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami carried the game through sheer conviction. They played with borrowed kits, often in near-empty stadiums, sustained only by passion and pride.

This World Cup win is the culmination of their legacy. It represents not only individual excellence but also institutional reform. The integration of women's cricket into the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the rise of the Women's Premier League, and increased investment in training and sports science have transformed the landscape. What was once a struggle for recognition is now a showcase of professionalism and precision.

The women in blue embody the four pillars that define modern sport: **grace --** not a performance of elegance, but a display of composure under pressure; **grit --** the unseen endurance behind long hours in the nets; power -- the audacity to hit over the boundary, defy expectations, and lead the charge; and **determination --** the resolve to keep showing up even when the spotlight looked away. Their gameplay in this tournament was marked by tactical brilliance.

The captaincy was sharp, the fielding agile, and the batting fearless. Each boundary declared that women's cricket had moved beyond novelty -- it had become elite competition. Behind the flair lay months of disciplined training, fitness regimens and analytical preparation that matched the best in the world.

Every great sporting victory rewrites a piece of national identity, and this one reshapes how India imagines itself. Cricket has long mirrored India's hierarchies of class, region, and gender. For women to claim the sport's highest prize is an act of quiet revolution. It asserts that talent, not tradition, determines belonging.

This win resonates beyond stadiums. It will echo in classrooms, where girls now dream of bats as well as textbooks; in living rooms, where parents rethink ambition for their daughters; and in boardrooms and broadcast studios, where women's sport must be seen not as charity but as national investment.

India has long celebrated women's victories with surprise, as if they were exceptions to the rule. This triumph challenges that reflex. It insists that women's excellence is not miraculous but inevitable when given opportunity. The women in blue have shown that sporting success depends not on gender but on systems that allow skill to flourish.

Public discourse, too, is changing. Commentators now discuss technique, not tokenism. Crowds attend for the game, not the novelty. Young boys look up to women cricketers as role models. These subtle cultural shifts mark the real progress—less visible than trophies, but far more transformative.

Despite the celebrations, much work remains to be done. Pay disparities persist, infrastructure for women athletes outside cricket remains limited, and grassroots programmes often lack funding. The next challenge is to convert symbolic victory into structural parity, equal contracts, dedicated academies, and consistent media visibility.

True equality in sport will come when women's victories are covered not as "firsts" but as part of a continuum. This requires consistent policy support, corporate partnerships, and media responsibility. India's sporting institutions must ensure that this momentum becomes a legacy.

The World Cup will gleam in a cabinet, but its glow will last far longer in the minds of millions. Every young girl swinging a bat today is part of that continuum. Every parent who now sees sport as a viable future for their daughter contributes to that change. This victory redefines what it means to play for India. It's not only about competition but representation in claiming space in a field long fenced off.

The women in blue have expanded the meaning of national pride to encompass strength, empathy, and equality within a single frame. History has indeed been made, but the story is not over. The next chapter will be written on how India sustains this energy through equal pay, better facilities, and an inclusive sporting culture.

(The author writes about politics, material culture, and economic history)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Iran to give $630-million loan for Kudremukh

Tehran, November 4
Iran will extend a 630-million-dollar loan to India for the development of Kudremukh Iron ore mines under an agreement signed here last night by External Affairs Minister Y. B. Chavan and the Iranian Finance Minister Houshang Ansari. Under the agreement, Iran will also supply India with an additional two million tons of crude oil at preferential terms. The two countries agreed on joint development of the Kudremukh mines last April.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Vajpayee under pressure to make Advani Dy PM

New Delhi, Nov 4
Cabinet ministers with RSS background are believed to be lobbying for deputy prime ministership for Home Minister L K Advani. They have reportedly urged Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to have Mr Advani as Number 2 in the cabinet to put an end to media speculation about the issue. When Mr Vajpayee went to Mumbai last month for his left knee operation, there was a debate in the media as to who was the number two or officiating prime minister.

OASIS | HARISH BARTHWAL

Creativity lies off the comfort zone

A comfort zone restricts one from taking the road less travelled. Divine powers want humans to live freely, in abundance. Behind landmark innovations were the persons who crossed the edge. A bird cannot spread its wings while bound in the cage, and an inhibiting mindset is anathema to a free soul. The 'safety first' tag impinges on the free play of verve and creativity. Staying embedded in the self-same territory disables one from partaking of the myriad beauties nature has to offer – exhilarating landscapes, the rustling of the trees, the unheard melodies, the tweeting of birds, et al. The box thinker has no idea about the customs, folkways, and stories that kept generations kicking. Normative boundaries irk the creative folks determined to explore the unknown frontiers. Undeterred by the boycotting of sorts by the society for leaving others behind and perils at every stage, they keep heading towards the edge and beyond, relishing a broad, clearer and fulfilling view.

Norms, rules, precepts, and guidelines in all realms serve as a rule of thumb for the mediocre mindsets who can see reality only in terms of do or don't, black or white; they are rendered clueless when faced with a plethora of shades in-between.

It never occurs to them that with a critical patient on the operation table, the well-meaning surgeons may have divergent opinions. Knowing that all guidelines of all descriptions are at best advisories with a postscript that necessary changes can always be made, the seeker with a mission shall bypass the rule without compunction if it is perceived as an encumbrance to the voice of conscience.

Apropos of a fully loaded donkey in the hills traversing a narrow pathway. Rather than the safer rocky side, it reflexively moves along the precarious cliff side. We do not know why it is attracted to the edge; maybe the broad, intriguing expansive view of flora & fauna downhill satisfies its curiosity. We get scared that it may skid anytime.

Yet the confident, carefree donkey, with steadfast resolve and its hooves firmly grounded in the rugged terrain, keeps moving onwards. Mind that in the perilous hills, more people than donkeys slip into the ditch.

The line demarcating life and death is thin, and nothing can be taken for granted. Life on the edge has a message that without pondering over the past or future, both non-existent, each moment needs to be enjoyed till the sunset of life.

'SILENT RIGGING': West Bengal CM leads the charge as EC begins exercise in 9 states, 3 UTs

Mamata warns BJP as SIR 2.0 kicks off

KOLKATA, DHNS

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday led a massive protest rally in Kolkata against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, warning that the fall of the BJP-led central government would be inevitable if even a single genuine voter in the state were disenfranchised.

The rally coincided with the launch of the SIR exercise across nine states and three Union territories.

In West Bengal alone, the Election Commission deployed 80,681 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to carry out the revision across 294 Assembly constituencies.

Mamata, joined by her heir apparent Abhishek Banerjee, spearheaded the protest, with the ruling Trinamool Congress denouncing the SIR as "silent, invisible rigging".

With reports of at least five suicides in West Bengal, allegedly linked to fears of disenfranchisement under the SIR, Mamata accused the EC of colluding with the BJP to strike off voter names in non-NDA-ruled states. She said the SIR had triggered widespread panic, leading to tragic consequences.

On the first day of house-to-house visits, BLOs distributed duplicate enumeration forms to over 18 lakh voters across West Bengal, according to officials overseeing the process.

The exercise is scheduled to continue until December 4.

The EC is expected to release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final rolls will be published on February 7.

"The BJP is conducting the SIR in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal — but not in Assam, Tripura or other north-eastern states. What is the reason for this bias? This is blatant discrimination designed to benefit the ruling party at the Centre," Mamata said.

With Assembly elections in West Bengal just months away, the BJP is reportedly banking on the removal of large numbers of allegedly illegal migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar through the SIR process.

"These people think they can strike off two crore names, deport people to Bangladesh, or push them into detention camps — all to capture power in West Bengal," Mamata said.

"They say they will expel Bangladeshis and Rohingyas. How many Rohingyas did they find in Bihar after SIR? Speaking Bengali doesn't make someone a Bangladeshi. Bengal's identity cannot be insulted like this," said the TMC chief.

The other states and UTs where the second round of SIR is being conducted are Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal CM

"If even one genuine voter's name is struck off the rolls, the BJP government will be shaken to its core. The fall of this government will be inevitable

SUVENDU ADHIKARI
LoP in West Bengal Assembly

"If there is any attack on a Booth Level Officer (BLO) during the enumeration exercise in a locality by TMC party activists, we will not spare the government and party

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee during a rally protesting the Special Intensive Revision process on Tuesday. PTI

DMK sets up helpline to clear doubts of cadres

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) fanned across Tamil Nadu on Tuesday as the month-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls kicked off, even as the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has challenged the conduct of the exercise in the Supreme Court.

Despite terming the SIR as a "de facto" NRC and demanding its withdrawal, the DMK announced the setting up of a state-wide helpline under the supervision of Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate N R Elango to help clear doubts from cadres on the SIR.

It also appointed in-charges for all 38 districts and asked cadres to get their doubts cleared from them or approach them in case of any difficulty during the exercise.

Though the exercise commenced, hesitancy has been noticed among some personnel in going forward with the drive in view of the opposition from the ruling DMK. The state has over 70,000 BLOs.

Political parties have instructed their booth-level agents across the state to ensure that voters in their booths participate in the exercise so that their names find place in the draft electoral rolls. "While we have challenged the exercise in the court, we cannot be silent as SIR has already begun. We have told our agents and cadres to be vigilant. We have told them that every vote is crucial," a senior DMK leader told *DH*.

Archana Patnaik, Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu, said BLOs will visit every household to distribute enumeration forms from November 4 to December 4 and guide them in filling up the form. "If BLO finds that any house is locked or closed, she/he shall make at least three visits. Electors may also download their Enumeration Forms and submit the filled-in forms online," she said in an official release.

Dispelling doubts, the CEO said the dates of the visits of the BLOs will be shared in advance and widely publicised in the locality by the Electoral Registration Officers.T he Final Electoral Roll will be published on 07.02.2026.

Poll authorities in Kerala move to allay NRI fears

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the enumeration for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began in Kerala on Tuesday, state election authorities have launched campaigns to ease concerns among the NRI community about possible exclusion.

Kerala is estimated to have around 30 lakh NRIs. In many cases, entire families have settled abroad, leaving their homes in Kerala locked for extended periods. This has raised fears that several of them may be removed from the voters' list due to their absence during the enumeration process.

To address these concerns, election officials are conducting intensive campaigns across the state.

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer Rathan U Kelkar said Indian citizens residing abroad with their families can submit the enumeration form online. "During verification, it will be sufficient if relatives or extended family members provide the necessary clarification," he said in a social media post.

Legal remedy

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is set to convene an all-party meeting on Wednesday to discuss the government's position on the SIR.

Sources said that Kerala may follow Tamil Nadu's lead in pursuing legal action against the roll revision process. The Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front is also likely to support the move.

In September, the Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing the SIR. At a recent all-party meeting convened by the state's Chief Electoral Officer, both the CPM and Congress reiterated their objections, alleging that the BJP-led central government may have vested interests in pushing for SIR in Kerala, especially with local body elections around the corner.

'Necessary measure'

Meanwhile, BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar defended the move, citing data that showed the number of Aadhaar cards issued in Kerala exceeded the state's population by 49 lakh. He said that similar discrepancies exist in other states, making SIR a necessary corrective measure.

However, sources pointed out that the inflated Aadhaar count could also be due to the non-cancellation of cards belonging to deceased people.

REVISION RESISTANCE

- Enumeration kicks off amid concerns over voter roll exclusions
- NRIs can submit forms digitally; relatives can verify on their behalf
- Election officials launch intensive campaigns to reassure voters
- Kerala may follow Tamil Nadu in challenging SIR in court
- All-party meet on Wednesday; CM Vijayan to discuss govt stance
- Congress and CPM allege Centre's vested interests

Bishops meet Modi amid minority rights concerns

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A delegation of Christian bishops met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Tuesday.

BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who accompanied the senior clergy, said the meeting did not touch upon specific incidents such as the recent attack on nuns in Chhattisgarh, but focused on issues concerning minority rights.

"The prime minister told the bishops, 'I will always be at your service'," Chandrasekhar said.

The meeting came a day after the Kerala-based Syro Malabar Church strongly criticised signboards in certain villages of BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh that barred the entry of pastors and converted Christians.

While there were reports that the bishops intended to raise concerns over attacks on community members in various regions, Chandrasekhar clarified that the discussions focused on micro minority rights.

Syro Malabar Church head Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil and Archbishop Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara of the Faridabad Archdiocese led the delegation. While they were yet to issue a formal response, they were understood to have submitted a representation to Modi, raising various concerns and requesting the government to invite Pope Leo XIV to India.

T'gana Woman held for plotting ex-husband's kidnap

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Hyderabad police have cracked a sensational kidnap-for-ransom case.

The accused, identified as Madhavi Latha, allegedly masterminded the abduction of her ex-husband, Manthri Shyam, and demanded Rs 1.5 crore as ransom.

According to police, Madhavi Latha married Shyam in the United States but divorced him several years ago.

After living in the USA for around 30 years and returning to India, Shyam changed his name to Ali and remarried three years ago.

East zone DCP Balswamy said the accused, along with her associate Durga Vinay, a man named Sai, and a hired female bouncer, plotted the kidnapping to extort money from her ex-husband.

Police have arrested 10 people in connection with the case and seized three cars, two motorcycles, and eight mobile phones. The kidnapping took place on October 29.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi visits the exhibition during the 10th edition of the India Defence Conclave, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

Maha municipal council, town panchayat polls on December 2

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid charges of 'vote chori' and voter roll discrepancies list by the Opposition and counter-allegations of 'vote jihad' by the BJP-led ruling alliance, the State Election Commission on Tuesday set the ball rolling for the local bodies elections in Maharashtra by announcing the poll schedule for 288 municipal councils and town panchayats.

Over a crore electors will vote for 246 nagar parishads and 42 nagar panchayats on December 2, while the counting is slated for December 3.

The elections to 29 municipal corporations, besides the 32 zilla parishads and 336 panchayat samities, will be announced later. The Supreme Court has directed the process of local body polls in Maharashtra to be completed by 31 January 2026.

The local polls would be a sort of litmus test for the two coalitions, as in 2024, the state witnessed diametrically opposite results in the Lok Sabha and the subsequent Assembly polls.

"Voting will be held to elect 6,859 members and 288 presidents in the nagar panchayats and nagar parishads," State Election Commissioner Dinesh Waghmare said.

Polling will be held using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), he added.

Manipur: 4 Kuki rebels killed, one held in encounter

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Security forces in conflict-torn Manipur on Tuesday said four cadres of United Kuki National Army (UKNA), an armed group, died during an encounter in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district.

But the group, in a statement later, claimed that the four were killed when they were asleep at Khanpi village. Several other Kuki civil society organisations also condemned the incident.

A statement issued by the Army on Tuesday morning said the incident took place when a team comprising personnel of both the Army and Assam Rifles came under attack during a combing operation in the village situated 80km west of Churachandpur.

"This operation follows recent atrocities by UKNA cadres, including killing of a village chief, intimidation of locals and attempts to disrupt peace and stability in the region," said the statement issued by the Army and Assam Rifles.

The UKNA is not part of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement signed by several Kuki insurgent groups with the government earlier.

Separate administration

Countering the claim by the security forces, the UKNA said they were not against the security forces and were only fighting for a "separate administration" for the Kukis as a solution to the conflict with the Meiteis. It said they would surrender once the demand for a separate administration is fulfilled by the Centre.

Several Kuki Civil society organisations such as Kuki Inpi Churachandpur, Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights, Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi, and Kuki Students' Organisation Churachandpur (KSO) issued a joint statement condemning the killing.

"The Kuki civil societies appeal to both the government security agencies and all insurgent and volunteer groups to refrain from further bloodshed and to seek peaceful means to resolve differences, so that peace and harmony may prevail in our region," said the joint statement. They issued a call for "total shutdown" in Churachandpur district during the funeral of the deceased.

India, Israel ink defence agreement

Deal signed days after UN report on 'Gaza Genocide'

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation on Tuesday, even as a United Nations report recently put the South Asian nation among the countries that "most frequently" supplied arms to the West Asian nation during its military offensives in Gaza in the past 24 months.

The MoU was signed in Tel Aviv on the same day External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hosted Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar in New Delhi. The two ministers also witnessed the signing of another MoU for cooperation in the field of training of diplomats.

The two sides further moved to "deepen the already strong defence cooperation" – just about a fortnight after Francesca Albanese, a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in occupied Palestine, presented a report titled "Gaza Genocide: A Collective Crime" on October 20.

It pointed out that 26 countries had sent at least 10 consignments of arms to Israel between October 2023 and October 2025, and India had been one of the countries that had "most frequently" done so.

"India and Israel have a strategic partnership and particularly in our case, that term has a real meaning. We have stood together in testing times. And we have created a relationship with a high degree of trust and of reliability," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the meeting with Sa'ar. He added, "Our two nations face a particular challenge from terrorism. It is essential that we work towards ensuring a global approach of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations."

"The eradication of the Hamas terrorist state is at the heart of President (Donald) Trump's plan. We will not compromise on it," said Sa'ar, who travelled to New Delhi and met Jaishankar amid speculation about a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to India.

Sa'ar also met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

S Jaishankar with Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Gideon Sa'ar during a meeting in New Delhi. PTI

Violent clash breaks out in TN between supporters of Ramadoss, his son Anbumani

CHENNAI, DHNS

The political feud between PMK founder S Ramadoss and his son Anbumani spilled on to the streets on Tuesday with cadres owing allegiance to the two leaders clashing violently with each other in Salem in western Tamil Nadu.

It all began with R Arul, PMK MLA from Salem (West) constituency, alleging on Tuesday that supporters of Anbumani, a former Union minister and PMK president, attacked his convoy of cars and demanded that police act against the perpetrators. However, Anbumani's spokesperson and senior party leader K Balu levelled a counter allegation that it was Arul's supporters who brutally attacked cadres.

Arul alleged that his convoy was pelted with stones near Vazhapadi in Salem district by supporters of Anbumani, who were "upset" with him for organising the PMK's General Council headed by Ramadoss in Salem.

"Three men had huge sickles, five had iron pipes and six cars were damaged by them using such weapons and they moved menacingly towards me, saying they would finish me off," Arul claimed.

However, Balu claimed that party workers were brutally assaulted by a gang led by the Salem (West) MLA and they also attempted to mow down cadres using a car and attacks took place in at least two places.

Anbumani said some "vested interests" have created a wedge between him and his father Ramadoss. "People have betrayed me. I won't go to the other side (father) as long as he is surrounded by traitors. They have split us," he added.

Police said a case has been registered following complaints from both factions. Tuesday's development shows the deep divisions within the PMK.

8 dead as passenger, goods trains collide in Ch'garh

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Eight people were killed and 14 others injured after a passenger train hit a goods train near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday evening.

The collision took place around 4 pm when the MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) was heading to Bilaspur from Gevra in neighbouring Korba district, railway officials said, adding it rammed into the goods train from behind between Gatora and Bilaspur stations.

The Railway Board said the accident took place as the passenger train seemed to have overshot a red signal.

People gather after a passenger train collided with a goods train near Bilaspur railway station on Tuesday. PTI

"A detailed inquiry into the incident will be conducted at the level of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)," said the Board.

The railway authorities announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh to the seriously injured persons, while those who sustained minor injuries will receive Rs 1 lakh assistance, an official statement said.

Relief and rescue operations have been launched on a war footing by the railway administration. Senior officials were present on the spot to monitor the situation, and the injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment, it said.

The accident disrupted train operations on the Bilaspur–Howrah route, and several train services were either cancelled or diverted.

Emergency contact numbers of Bilaspur –7777857335, 7869953330, Champa –8085956528, Raigarh –9752485600, Pendra Road –8294730162, Korba – 7869953330 and Uslapur – 7777857338, have been made operational for the convenience of passengers and their families.

QS RANKINGS

Five IITs, DU, IISc among top 100 institutes in Asia

NEW DELHI, PTI

Five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Delhi University, have figured in Asia's top 100 institutions, according to the QS University Rankings announced on Tuesday.

IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Kharagpur figured in the list of top 100 Asian institutes.

"Seven Indian institutions rank in the top 100 in QS World University Asia rankings, 20 in the top 200 and 66 in the top 500," London based QS said in a statement.

It said compared to last year's rankings, 36 Indian institutes improved, 16 remained the same and 105 dropped. "The expansion of the rankings is associated with the greater volatility observed in this year's results."

"Overall, 41 Indian institutions appear in the top 80th percentile of universities. India ranks best in Asia for staff with PhD," it added.

IIT-Delhi, which ranked 59 this year, was declared the best Indian institute for the fifth consecutive year.

India dominates the 'Papers per Faculty' indicator, with five universities ranked among Asia's top 10 and 28 among the top 50 — more than double the number achieved by its closest competitor, China (two in the top 10 and 14 in the top 50).

J&K: Outsiders buy land worth over Rs 129 cr since Article 370 abrogation

Official data shows 48 acres purchased across the UT, mostly in Jammu

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Since the revocation of J&K's special status under Article 370 in August 2019, 631 non-residents have purchased 48.25 acres of land across the Union Territory, with a combined value of over Rs 129 crore, according to official data.

Before August 5, 2019, Articles 370 and 35-A prohibited outsiders from purchasing land or securing government jobs in the erstwhile state — a protection long regarded by residents as a safeguard for their demographic and cultural identity.

The revocation of the special status, which bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh – ended those protections, triggering widespread apprehension among Kashmiris about losing control over their land and resources.

According to data presented in the House during a recent Assembly session, 378 non-residents purchased 26.5 acres of land in the Jammu region, while 253 outsiders bought 21.625 acres in the Kashmir Valley.

Interestingly, the majority of the "non-local" buyers — around 350 — are from the Union Territory of Ladakh, which was carved out of J&K after the 2019 reorganisation.

While most buyers from outside J&K have purchased small plots, a few corporate and individual investors have acquired larger parcels. Delhi-based Luxury Resorts Pvt Ltd bought three land parcels — 22 kanals, 3 kanals, and 6 kanals — in Srinagar's scenic Chatterhama area. Another major buyer, H. G. Chawla, purchased 15 kanals in the Harwan locality on the outskirts of Srinagar.

The list of non-local buyers also includes people from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand, Delhi, and Bihar, though their numbers remain modest, not exceeding double digits.

The first transaction by a non-local was recorded in 2020, when an outsider purchased one kanal (0.125 acre) of land for Rs 10.06 lakh. Since then, land purchases by non-residents have steadily increased — from 57 buyers in 2021 acquiring a little over three acres, to 158 buyers in 2025 purchasing 106 kanals (13.25 acres).

The data, while showing that large-scale land acquisition by outsiders has not yet occurred, has nonetheless rekindled old fears among Kashmiris, who view these developments as the beginning of a demographic shift in the region.

Human rights panel seeks report on Telangana crash

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Taking suo motu cognisance of the road accident near Mirjaguda village in Chevella mandal, on Monday, in which 19 people lost their lives after a gravel-laden tipper lorry collided with a Telangana RTC bus on the Hyderabad–Bijapur Highway, the Telangana Human Rights Commission has sought comprehensive reports from multiple departments.

Headed by Dr Justice Shameem Akther, the Commission directed the Transport, Home, Mines & Geology, NHAI, District Collector (Ranga Reddy), and TGRTC to submit detailed factual and action-taken reports by December 15.

It observed that recurring accidents in the region highlight serious lapses in road safety management, enforcement, and infrastructure maintenance — violations that effectively compromise the Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, videos of the bodies of those who died in the mishap being heaped into the rear portion of a towing vehicle from the accident site to the hospital had gone viral and drew flak for handling the bodies in an 'inhuman' manner instead of using ambulances.

On Tuesday, local youth in Tandur staged protests demanding immediate repair of a road that has been neglected for years.

TN gang-rape: 3 accused shot in legs while 'trying to flee'; held

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

After a day-long manhunt and examining visuals from nearly 300 CCTV cameras, the Coimbatore Police arrested three labourers for allegedly abducting and sexually assaulting a college student on Sunday night.

All three suspects were shot in the legs when they "attempted to escape" after a police team encircled them near Vellakinaru in Coimbatore district at around 11 pm on Monday night.

Seven special teams formed to crack the sexual assault case examined visuals from 300 surveillance cameras across the city and worked on clues that they received from several quarters. The two-wheeler that the trio, all with past criminal records, rode to the crime spot on Sunday night before abducting the second-year management student to a secluded place was another crucial piece of evidence that led to their arrest.

Meanwhile, the AIADMK took to the streets in Coimbatore to protest the deteriorating law and order situation in Tamil Nadu and distributed pepper sprays to women as a "self-defence".

Breaking his silence, Chief Minister M K Stalin said no harsh words would be sufficient to condemn such brutal crimes. "The perpetrators have been identified and arrested. I have instructed the police to file the chargesheet in the case within a month and to ensure that they receive the maximum punishment. Moreover, it is only the progress of women that will end the dominance of such a perverted male-dominant mindset."

The three, identified as Guna, Karuppasamy, and Kaleeswaran from Sivaganga district in southern Tamil Nadu.

Coimbatore Police Commissioner A Saravana Sundar said a police team reached Vellakinaru at around 11 pm on Monday after ascertaining that the suspects were hiding and asked them to surrender. "When they tried to escape, we shot in their legs and nabbed them," the police officer said.

UK-based Muslim cleric booked for promoting radicalisation in India

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A Muslim cleric, who is a British citizen, has been booked for allegedly promoting Islamic radicalisation in India, forgery, and violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

An FIR was registered against Shamsul Huda Khan at Khalilabad police station in Uttar Pradesh's Sant Kabir Nagar district.

According to sources, the case was lodged following a report by the Anti-Terrorist Squad. Sources said Khan was accused of promoting Islamic radicalisation in the country and collecting funds from abroad under the pretext of establishing madrasas (Islamic seminaries).

They added that the state government had cancelled the recognition of two madrasas in Sant Kabir Nagar and Azamgarh with which the cleric was associated. The registration of his NGO, Raza Foundation, was also cancelled.

The FIR, lodged on the complaint of district minority welfare officer Praveen Kumar Mishra, stated that Khan, who hailed from UP's Deoria district and acquired UK citizenship in 2013, had travelled frequently to Pakistan and India.

Khan was allegedly in contact with radical Muslim clerics in Pakistan, the FIR claimed.

Police sources said the cleric collected funds from foreign individuals and organisations and channelled them into India through unauthorised routes, thereby "endangering national security."

The matter is under investigation, and information is being gathered about his acquaintances in the country.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

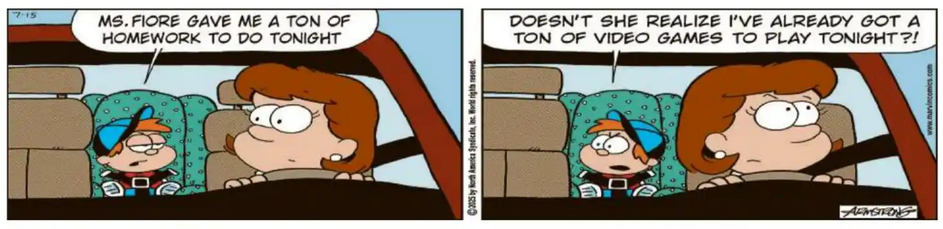
"COFFEE BADGING"...THE LATEST TREND TO ANNOY BOSSES...
EMPLOYEES PUNCH IN, DRINK COFFEE...
HUH?
THEN GO HOME, INSTEAD OF BEING HERE FOR THE FULL EIGHT HOURS
DEFINE "HERE"
Z
7-29

Hagar The Horrible

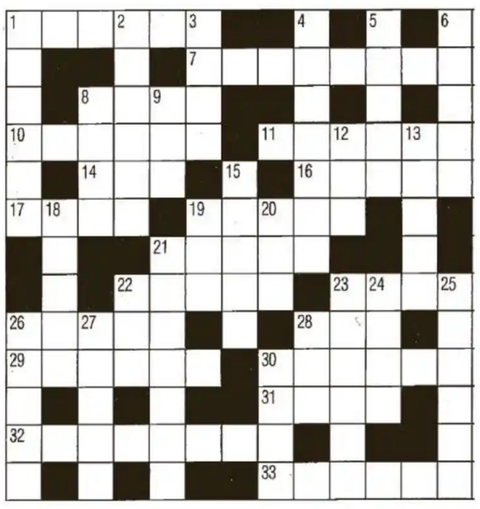
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12281



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Does he object to being a bodyguard? (6)
7 A club I do damage with, though not by intent (8)
8 Plans made by a master to put an end to cockups? (4)
10 Cause embarrassment simply by arriving? (4,2)
11 Maybe it's covered in spilt fuel, thus useless (6)
14 It's full of holes (3)
16 About two or three ways to make a fresh start (5)
17 The spare-part boom? (4)
19 To name as a mere gesture (5)
21 Figures in court? (5)
22 Their charms get me won round (5)
23 Familiar forename of Father Brown? (4)
26 Many can take a rise out of this penny-pincher (5)
28 In a stern position, he presents a firm figure (3)
29 She makes one cry for a bit of help (6)
30 A bad soldier seems a drawback to the commanding officer (6)
31 First man to have a horse (4)
32 Working diligently is difficult for a diminutive flier (4,2,2)
33 Too unfashionable to go to one's head (3,3)

DOWN
1 The old woman wouldn't hit us (6)
2 Reward raised by the chap who wrote the cheque (6)
3 An artist's sharp-ended tool (4)
4 Makes sense of the prices, perhaps (7)
5 Misguidedly being open! (5)
6 Scatter some troops in various directions (5)
8 A mystery man keeps her love (4)
9 Centre for computers, say (3)
12 Group of cabaret entertainers (3)
13 Light headed, always, in the bar (5)
15 Act very inconclusively in town (5)
18 Whence dad is about to start for Rouen? (5)
19 It's up to Mike, little man (3)
20 Boy's name for a Hampstead "wood" (3)
21 The gaffer gives a chap warning (7)
22 An entanglement, we note (3)
23 The way a road has an admiral's name (6)
24 Test no longer taking half a day (4)
25 Move at the end of August, cheap (6)
26 All one's ability to get the right rhyme (5)
27 Soothing thing to say, sadly (5)
28 As a swimmer, could start to do badly! (3)
30 Ancient Roman's love for a pet (4)

ACROSS
1 One-roomed flat (6)
7 Beekeeper (8)
8 Wail (4)
10 Erse (6)
11 African desert (6)
14 Unit of weight (3)
16 Jeans fabric (5)
17 Dutch cheese (4)
19 Spanish man (5)
21 Long-snouted mammal (5)
22 Regal (5)
23 Red meat (4)
26 Drinking tube (5)
28 Depressed (3)
29 Nutty sweet (6)
30 Boundary (6)
31 Gemstone (4)
32 Remedy (8)
33 Jailer (6)

DOWN
1 Shoe (6)
2 Skiing race (6)
3 Body powder (4)
4 Bullfighter (7)
5 Backless sofa (5)
6 Vapour (5)
8 Greek letter (4)
9 Be victorious (3)
12 That woman (3)
13 Wash (5)
15 Refund (5)
18 The aforementioned (5)
19 Speak (3)
20 Nothing (3)
21 In the direction of (7)
22 Torn cloth (3)
23 Hairdresser (6)
24 Whirlpool (4)
25 Erstwhile (6)
26 Skulk (5)
27 Corrodes (5)
28 Former French coin (3)
30 Make beer (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12280

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, C-lock 6, Ca-U-se 9, Hold-s on 10, Sno-Op. 11, Store 12, Dan-te 13, Decimal 15, Cad 17, Iron 18, De-lu-de 19, Pa-per 20, Caesar 22, Sift 24, Hit 25, History 26, Steam 27, A-mm.-an 28, D-aunt 29, Keep fit 30, Infer 31, Maths.
DOWN: 2, Longer 3, Ch.-Op.-in 4, Kop 5, I-Deal 6, Costner 7, Ante 8, Spread 12, Dakar 13, Ditch 14, Cove-t 15, Cur-I-O 16, Deit-y 18, D-en-IM 19, Partner 21, Airma-n 22, Strata 23, French 25, Harpo 26, Sake 28, Di-m.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Canal 6, Hence 9, Barrier 10, Salad 11, Anger 12, Snide 13, Liberia 15, Gem 17, Acid 18, Bolero 19, Floor 20, Leeway 22, Dash 24, Eft 25, Letitia 26, Stray 27, Forte 28, Aisle 29, Orchard 30, Steps 31, Tense.
DOWN: 2, Arabic 3, Abated 4, Lad 5, Arena 6, Head for 7, Erne 8, Clever; 12, Silly 13, Ladle 14, Bidet 15, Get at 16, Mocha 18, Bogey 19, Falters 21, Effort 22, Divide 23, Sidles 25, Lathe 26, Stop 28, Art.

◆SU-DO-KU-6743◆

3		7			6			
8	9		7	1				6
	5			4				
	3	9			5			
		6	4		9	5		
			2			6	3	
				5			8	
5				7	1		4	2
			3			7		5

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6742

9	7	8	5	2	3	6	1	4
6	2	1	8	7	4	5	3	9
4	5	3	6	9	1	2	8	7
2	8	4	9	6	7	1	5	3
5	6	7	1	3	2	9	4	8
1	3	9	4	5	8	7	2	6
3	9	6	2	8	5	4	7	1
8	1	2	7	4	9	3	6	5
7	4	5	3	1	6	8	9	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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M3	O1	H4	U1	C3	S1	O1	Double Word Score	RACK 1
A1	S1	R1	H4	D2	D2	S1	2nd Letter Double	RACK 2
E1	E1	H4	K5	C3	T1	V4		RACK 3
R1	N1	I1	D2	G2	E1	I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4
U1	A1	I1	O1	R1	S1	V4		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3 I1 A1 S1 M3 A1	RACK 1	16
P3 A1 S1 S1 E1 S1	RACK 2	8
S1 T1 R1 I1 A1 T1 A1	RACK 3	64
Q10 U1 I1 L1 T1 E1 R1	RACK 4	66
PAR SCORE 100-110	JUDD'S TOTAL	154

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

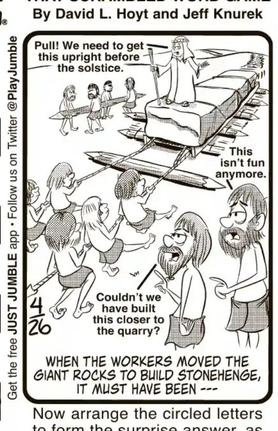
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RCAYR

DLGEA

EEFDTA

AIPMRI


Pull! We need to get this upright before the solstice.
This isn't fun anymore.
Couldn't we have built this closer to the quarry?
4/26
WHEN THE WORKERS MOVED THE GIANT ROCKS TO BUILD STONEHENGE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here: _____ _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEITY SWEPT HARASS AFLOAT
Answer: Guys with facial hair above their mouths sometimes get part of a meal — STASHED AWAY

HITORI-3197

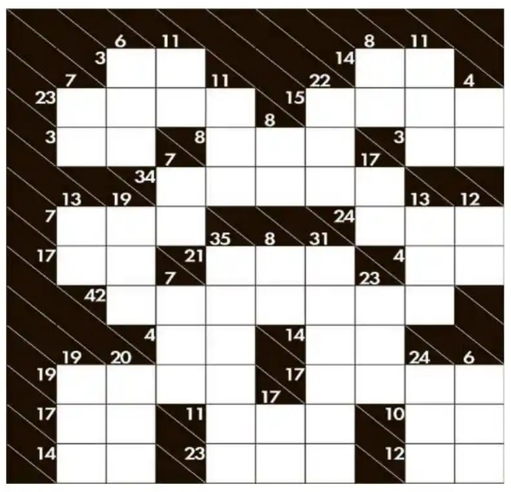
5	1	6	7	2	4	5	7
5	5	4	3	7	5	1	6
7	2	3	8	7	1	5	5
6	1	5	7	4	8	2	5
7	7	2	4	5	6	7	1
2	4	1	6	7	5	3	7
4	3	8	1	1	7	5	2
2	5	7	4	2	3	8	7

SOLUTION TO 3196

■	7	■	5	3	2	8	4
4	1	8	■	5	6	3	2
6	■	2	3	■	4	1	■
■	6	■	2	4	■	5	1
2	4	5	■	1	7	■	8
■	3	1	6	2	8	4	5
1	■	6	■	8	■	7	■
5	8	7	4	■	1	2	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3197



SOLUTION TO 3196

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3726

■								■
	■	4			2		1	
		8				■		
			4		■		9	
				■	5	4		2
	9		■	1		7		5
		■				■		
	■	1		4	6		■	
3		2	1		7		6	■

SOLUTION TO 3725

8	6	7	5	1	2	4	3	9
3	5	2	4	9	6	1	8	7
1	4	9	3	7	8	6	2	5
2	7	1	6	4	3	9	5	8
6	3	5	8	2	9	7	4	1
4	9	8	7	5	1	2	6	3
7	8	4	9	6	5	3	1	2
9	1	3	2	8	4	5	7	6
5	2	6	1	3	7	8	9	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Pharmacies still selling mislabelled ORS

A paediatrician's 8-year battle against big pharma has resulted in a major victory, but progress on the ground is lagging

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Despite a ban on food brands for wrongly labelling their sugary drinks as ORS, some pharmacies in Bengaluru are tricking unsuspecting customers into buying them.

Doctors advise using only the WHO-recommended ORS (oral rehydration salts) formulation to replace fluids and electrolytes lost to dehydration. According to the WHO, diarrhoeal diseases are the third leading cause of death in children and it considers ORS as a safe, cost-effective solution for its treatment.

Pharmacies such as this one in Jayanagar continue to stock and sell mislabelled ORS tetra packs.

To report

Citizens can visit the Office of the Food Safety Commissioner on Seshadri Road, or file a complaint through the Food Safety Connect app or on foscos.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance.

Reality check

Metrolife visited 11 pharmacies between Sunday and Tuesday. When asked for ORS, five handed out tetra packs bearing the word 'ORS' on the label but also carrying the disclaimer 'Not an ORS'. In HSR Layout, a pharmacy belonging to a large chain said each of their branches had at least two boxes of non-compliant tetra packs to clear. At a private hospital pharmacy in Malleswaram, a staffer tried to sell a pseudo-ORS drink as "WHO formula with calories". Several pharmacists believe the ban applied only to one brand — ORSL. In Dasarahalli, a store owner initially offered an ORSL pack with the said disclaimer but quickly fetched a WHO-recommended version from the same brand after we mentioned the recent court order (see box). A Richmond Town pharmacy tried to sell a fruit drink with 'Electro' in its branding. It cost Rs 4 more than genuine ORS packs in their stock.

Action in Karnataka

A source close to the development said manufacturers of such drinks are primarily based in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Assam. "One manufacturer in Karnataka has been issued a notice to direct its distributors to recall the existing stocks in 15 days," he said.

Inside real ORS

Paediatricians say that while the problem of spurious ORS has come under public glare only recently, the medical community has long been aware of it. Many doctors write down the WHO-compliant ORS brands in their prescriptions, and where cost and access are limited, they teach patients how to make a safe ORS mix at home — with sugar (or rice ganji), salt, and a squeeze of lime.

They say giving a child non-WHO ORS can worsen diarrhoea rather than relieve it. Paediatrician Dr Kritika Agarwal says the reason lies in osmolarity, or the concentration of dissolved salts and sugars in the solution. She explains, "The osmolarity of the WHO-recommended ORS formula is 245 mOsm/L, and it provides 75 mg of glucose per litre. In contrast, many of these tetra pack drinks have up to 12 gm of sugar. The excess sugar draws water from the body into the intestines, further dehydrating the child." Children under five are particularly vulnerable. "The surface area of their intestines is relatively larger compared to their body size, so they lose fluids more quickly," she says.

Dr Yogesh Kumar Gupta, paediatrician and intensivist, says an imbalanced solution can lead to hypernatremia (excess sodium in the blood, causing thirst, nausea, and weakness) or hyperkalemia (excess potassium, leading to muscle weakness). Conversely, overly diluted ORS can cause hyponatremia or hypokalemia. While a one-off use of an 'ORS' substitute may not cause immediate harm, he cautions against complacency. "In children, the elderly, or anyone with weaker kidney function, even mild imbalances can be risky," he notes.

Paediatrician Dr Reena Philip Kovoor explains that electrolytes like sodium and potassium occur naturally in the body. "The role of ORS," she says, "is to restore this internal chemical balance, which in turn regulates hydration mechanisms in the body". This cannot be achieved by drinking water alone, she adds.

Dr Gupta says while buying ORS sachets or tetra packs, look for words 'Based on WHO formula' or 'WHO recommended formula' printed on them.

Timeline

2021-24: After years of campaigning, Hyderabad-based paediatrician Dr Sivaranjani Santosh starts writing to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, FSSAI, and the health ministry about the dangers of misleading ORS-labelled drinks. In 2022, she files a PIL in the Telangana high court. FSSAI initially bars non-medical beverages from using the 'ORS' label, but shortly reverses the order, allowing the label with a disclaimer. Dr Sivaranjani continues her advocacy on social media.

Oct 2025: FSSAI issues directives asking food businesses to remove 'ORS' from products that don't meet WHO standards, revoking two of its earlier orders. Following which, the Delhi high court grants interim relief to JNTL Consumer Health (maker of ORSL) on its petition to sell its existing stock worth Rs 180 crore, and directs FSSAI to hear the company's representation. Later, when Dr Reddy's Laboratories (Rebalanz Vitors) approaches the Delhi high court with a similar petition, it upholds FSSAI's ban, citing public health concerns, but allows the company to approach FSSAI for disposal of existing stock.

Nov 2025: *Metrolife* finds city drug stores still selling spurious ORS.

The Hafizia School in Shivajinagar is currently being redeveloped.

Initiative to redevelop 8 Shivajinagar schools

Some of the government-run institutions are close to 140 years old

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

MLA Rizwan Arshad of the Shivajinagar constituency has come up with an initiative to redevelop eight schools in the area. He aims to focus on improving the infrastructure and upgrading the curriculum.

The state-run Tamil School and the BBMP-run Hafizia School, each close to 140 years old, are set to undergo major renovations, including curriculum enhancements. These schools will be adopted by different organisations as part of their CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiatives.

"The government schools in the area are often viewed as poorly maintained, providing subpar education, with many lacking a proper curriculum. As a result, students frequently leave these schools in search of schools with better facilities," Arshad told *Metrolife*.

The Tamil School has been adopted by Inventure, a city-based private school in Bengaluru — it has begun operations this academic year (2025-2026) and is expanding its facilities. Hafizia School is being designed to meet international standards with help from Education Design International, a Bengaluru-based architecture firm. The Bengaluru-based Faizal and Shabana Foundation, known for its successful upgradation of a government school in Kozhikode, will provide the curriculum.

"The foundation aims to turn Hafizia School into a model for government education in Karnataka," said Arshad. They will train teachers and operate the school at no cost, with plans to begin in the upcoming academic year (2026-2027).

"While we have invested in several other government schools, these two are designed to incorporate a new educational system," he stated, also adding, "With our reinvestment and partnerships with private entities, we aim to surpass the standards of private schools."

Hafizia School will also serve as a community sports centre for women during off-hours. It will offer such facilities as a running track, amphitheatre, and play area, promoting sports and exercise.

Multiple sports centres will also be developed to deter youth from substance abuse and joining gangs. These sports centres are being built atop community halls equipped with world-class gyms, and pickleball and badminton courts.

Pubs tweak playlists as demand for Kannada songs grows

In the last two years, more customers are keen on grooving to Kannada songs, proprietors say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Kannada songs are a part of the regular playlist at breweries like Bier Loft, Electronics City.

At one of the city's numerous pubs or microbreweries, it would not be unusual to hear the strains of 'Mastu mastu hudugi' while sipping on freshly brewed pale ale.

As the language debate rages on on social media and manifests itself on our streets, many of Bengaluru's pubs have been quietly rethinking their playlists to include Kannada songs.

It's a change that has been seen over the last two years, says Ganesh Ranganath, a popular name in Bengaluru's DJ circles.

Ranganath set up Gulp Cocktails and Kitchen in Banashankari in 2023. He wanted to create an experience where customers could enjoy the food typically served in military hotels in a modern space. The music, therefore, had to match the menu. "I have been in the circuit for a long time, and when it came to setting up my own space, I wanted to be true to myself and my culture," he says.

Their menu includes usli, Malnad chicken fry, nuggekai chilli, and other popular Karnataka dishes. "Customers can tuck into these quintessential delicacies while enjoying popular Upendra and V Ravichandran songs," he adds. While there have been requests to play Hindi or English songs, they politely remind customers that the pub has a specific theme to stick to.

He notes that after they opened Gulp in June 2023, a host of other pubs in the area followed suit. "They took a leaf out of our book and changed their menus and playlists to focus more on the local culture," he explains.

Gap in the market

However, it was Enne, Malleswaram, that first decided to tap into the "huge gap in the market". They opened in March 2023 as "an experiment", says Shruthi Sukumar, founder. Overwhelmed by the profusion of pizza and burger joints, Shruthi noticed that there were hardly any spaces that celebrated Karnataka culture. The experiment paid off, and it continues to be one of the places that focuses on Kannada music. They continue to host three live music events a week — on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, and a karaoke night on Friday.

Regular playlists

Kannada music is not restricted to just pubs with Karnataka as their central theme. Breweries like Bier Loft, Electronics City, and Mykos Craft Kitchen and Bar, Bannerghatta Road, include popular songs like 'Tagaru', 'Mastu mastu hudugi' and 'Bombe heluthaithe' in their regular playlists.

Anu Arjun, owner of Topic Craft Bar and Kitchen, Banashankari, shares that they did not initially plan to have Kannada songs on their playlist. But repeated requests from customers saw them tweaking the curation.

Flo on Church Street, too, did the same. "We opened in 2021 and experimented a lot. In the last few years, we began getting requests for Kannada music. So, we decided to take that into account," says Ajit G S, managing director of Crimson and Clover, which owns Flo. They host artistes who perform Kannada songs exclusively and ensure that on weekends at least a few of the songs being played are in Kannada. "We also encourage our DJ to play Kannada mashups," he adds.

Others, like 404 by TOF, Koramangala, and Social (all outlets), play Kannada songs on request.

CITY MIX

Talent search for artists concludes Wednesday

The Karnataka Lalithakala Academy and Jain University's School of Design, Media, and Creative Arts hosted a talent search for aspiring artists. The competition camp and art exhibition kicked off on November 1 and will wrap up with a prize distribution on Wednesday.

Thirty artists participated, and 10 will be named the 'Talented Students of 2025'. Each will receive a Rs 15,000 cash prize and a certificate, during an award ceremony at the School of Design, scheduled at 3 pm.

The awards will be presented by Kiran Bagade, Mahaveer C Jain, and Dr Avinash Dnyandevrao Kate.

B'luru to host 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games

Bengaluru is set to host the second edition of the National Cultural Pythian Games from November 7 to 9, at Bengaluru City University. It is being organised by the Pythian Council of India. It will bring together artists, performers, and athletes from all over India. They will participate in a variety of competitions, ranging from music to dance and poetry, martial arts and traditional games. The event aims to revive a tradition that honours the arts, similar to the ancient Pythian Games in Greece, which celebrated artistic and cultural expressions alongside athletic feats.

The opening ceremony will commence on November 7 at 10 am, and the closing ceremony will take place on November 9 at 5 pm.

POPCORN

God promise

The battle between D K Shivakumar and Tejasvi Surya is raging day after day. In DKShi's view, men don't get brides unless they own cars, and hence a tunnel road is the way to go. Surya is batting for an expanded Metro network, and he has a point. But DKShi wants to know why the young MP drives around in a car. What? This is a bit like expecting Ajay Devgn, Shah Rukh and Tiger Shroff to chew pan masala and say 'Bolo zubaan kesari' when they go shooting, no? And imagining Ranveer Singh drinks a sugary cola when he goes to the gym. Sachin endorsed a budget bike, but in reality, you think God would ride one?

EVENTS

Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma

5-day music festival

The Academy of Music presents Sri K K Murthy Memorial Music Festival – 2025, a Karnatik and Hindustani music festival, from November 5 to 9, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall.

The festival will feature artistes such as Kaushiki Chakraborty, Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma, Visakha Hari, Suresh Bapat, among others. The finale day will include an awards ceremony, and a violin concert by L Subramaniam and his team. Lobby concerts (4.45 pm-5.45 pm) are free, while tickets for main concerts (6 pm) are available online.

Guided walk

Khushi Bansal will host a guided walk, 'Paws & Listen: The Curator's Perspective', for the exhibition 'The Many Lives of the Cat', on November 8, 11.30 am, at MAP Bengaluru, Kasturba Road. Entry free. Registration mandatory. Check map-india.org

Kannada drama

'Baayibadki', a comedy drama, will be staged on November 8, 7 pm, at Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, Basavanagudi. Tickets online.

PARAS

Many vegan groups active in Bengaluru

These collectives promote cruelty-free living through potlucks and cookery workshops. November is World Vegan Month

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Vegans in Bengaluru often come together through potlucks, talks, art events, and wellness workshops. At these gatherings, they share plant-based recipes, explore art as a tool for activism, and discuss mindful ways of living. *Metrolife* lists some vegan groups in the city.

Bengaluru Vegans

One of the city's oldest vegan communities, Bengaluru Vegans hosts monthly potlucks and quarterly food walks. Susmitha, a core member, says these meetups are open to all. Her husband's peanut curd rice is always a hit. "It blows people's minds that curd rice can be vegan," she explains. "We also visit non-vegan cafes and order vegan dishes to show there's demand for plant-based options," she adds.

Visit bengaluruvegans.wordpress.com

Poshak Life

Based in Bengaluru, Poshak Life promotes a whole-food, plant-based lifestyle through potlucks, workshops, and wellness sessions. "We teach people to make clean, plant-based meals like tomato ketchup and dips without additives," says co-founder Deepali Gaonkar. The group also conducts nutrition webinars and mental wellness sessions to encourage mindful living.

Check @PoshakLife on Instagram.

Café Zero

Founded by nutrition consultant Rashi Tiwari, Yelahanka-based Café Zero regularly hosts vegan potlucks, health talks, and other meetups for vegan and environmental groups. Each event draws 20-40 attendees. While most events are open to the public, they also host open-mic sessions and other gatherings by invitation.

Attendees of a potluck meetup organised by Cafe Zero, enjoying vegan mango popsicles.

Check @cafezero25 on Instagram.

Sampoorna Ahara

Started by lifestyle physician Dr Achyuthan Eswar, Sampoorna Ahara promotes the use of food to prevent and reverse lifestyle diseases. "We began after seeing patients reverse diabetes and improve fertility by changing their diet," says Dr Eswar. The group hosts potlucks featuring dishes like cashew cheesecake, potato cheese pizza, and sweet potato gulab jamun. Talks on topics like diabetes reversal and menstrual health, and workshops on how to bake without sugar or make oil-free south Indian dishes are also held.

Look up @sampoornaahara on Instagram.

Ubuntu

Founded by former Greenpeace environmentalist Abhinav Ubuntu in Kolkata, this community's Bengaluru chapter has been active for two years. It organises monthly vegan potlucks with themed discussions, ranging from water conservation to how to celebrate festivals mindfully. "Everyone brings a homemade vegan dish to the event. Curd rice made with cashew curd is always a hit. Someone even made sweet potato rasmalai once," says Sunaina Vaishnav, a community leader.

Check @ubuntuverse on Instagram.

Shift Foundation

Started by Manisha Singh and Pratiksha Rao, this new group promotes veganism through music, dance, visual art, and other immersive experiences. It plans to host art festivals and public installations on animal rights in the near future.

Visit @voicetheshift on Instagram.

Australian spy chief flays China for IP theft

MELBOURNE, AP/PTI: An Australian spy chief on Tuesday accused Chinese security services of widespread intellectual property theft and political meddling, while he said they failed to understand how their Western counterparts operate.

Mike Burgess, director-general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, better known as ASIO, said he would continue to call out China for harming Australian interests.

"We all spy on each other, but we don't conduct wholesale intellectual property theft. We don't actually interfere with political systems and we don't undertake high-harm activity," Burgess told the Lowy Institute international policy think tank in Sydney.

Burgess said in denying his accusations, China displayed an ignorance of ASIO's role in Australia.

"Every time I've done that (called China out), there's an army of Chinese officials that go around complaining to almost everyone in this country across the system—public and private—but not to me," Burgess said.

"If they were as smart as they should be—and they are smart—they would understand a Western liberal democracy... We work for the government of the day, but our security assessments and our security action are independent."

Trump's agenda faces test in NYC, New Jersey & Virginia

Young Leftist Mamdani poised to win NYC vote, shake up US politics

REUTERS

Democratic candidate for New York City mayor, Zohran Mamdani, and his wife, Rama Duwaji vote at a polling site in Astoria, Queens borough of New York City, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Voters in New Jersey and Virginia went to the polls on Tuesday to choose their next governors in a pair of races that will serve as an early gauge of the American electorate's mood after President Donald Trump's norm-shattering nine months in office.

In New York City's mayoral race, Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist, faces 67-year-old Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat running as an independent after losing to Mamdani in the primary, four years after resigning as New York state's governor in disgrace. The campaign has laid bare the Democratic Party's generational and ideological divides as it seeks to rehabilitate its damaged brand.

And in California, voters will decide whether to give Democratic lawmakers the power to redraw the state's congressional map, expanding a national battle over redistricting that could determine which party controls the US House of Representatives after next year's midterm elections.

Polls close first in Virginia at 7 pm ET (5:30 am Wednesday IST), followed by New Jersey, New York and California throughout Tuesday evening. Democrats will be watching the results carefully, with the party locked out of power in Washington and struggling to find consensus on the best path out of the political wilderness.

Underscoring the stakes for Democrats, former President Barack Obama, still the party's most popular figure, headlined 11th-hour rallies over the weekend in New Jersey and Virginia, exhorting voters to elect Democrats to counter what he branded the Republican Trump's "lawlessness."

More than 3 million people voted early in Virginia, New York and New Jersey, in each case far exceeding the totals from four years ago. In New York City, there were 735,000 ballots cast, according to the city elections board, more than four times the number in 2021.

The New Jersey race has emerged as the most hotly contested campaign, with opinion polls showing Democrat Mikie Sherrill, a congresswoman and former Navy pilot, holding a narrow lead over her Republican challenger, former state lawmaker and small-business owner Jack Ciattarelli.

The day's other races appear less competitive. In Virginia, Abigail Spanberger, a former Democratic US representative, held a comfortable opinion polling lead over the state's Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, a Republican.

In New York, Mamdani, who was a little-known lawmaker in New York's state legislature only a few months ago, has led by double digits over Cuomo, with Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa, 71, a distant third in most opinion polls. Mamdani, running an insurgent campaign, has proposed more ambitious left-wing policies, including freezing rents for nearly a million apartments, taxing the wealthy and making the city's buses free.

On Monday, Trump endorsed Cuomo, urging supporters to vote for the former governor and repeating his threat to cut funds to his native city if Mamdani wins.

US govt shutdown ties record for longest in history

WASHINGTON, AFP: The US government shutdown entered its 35th day on Tuesday, matching a record set during Donald Trump's first presidency, as his administration warned of potential chaos at airports going into one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

The federal closure appears almost certain to become the longest in history, with no major breakthroughs expected before it goes into its sixth week at midnight — although there were fragile signs in Congress that an off-ramp is closer than ever.

The government has been grinding to a halt since Congress failed to approve funding past September 30, and pain has been mounting as welfare programmes hang in limbo.

Some 1.4 million federal workers, from air traffic controllers to park wardens, have also been placed on enforced leave without pay or made to work for nothing.

The Trump administration sounded the alarm on Tuesday over turmoil at airports nationwide if the shutdown drags into a sixth week, worsening staff shortages, snarling airport lines and closing down sections of airspace. More than 60,000 air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration officers are working without pay, and the White House has warned that increasing absenteeism could mean chaos at check-in lines.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Former England footballer David Beckham, with his wife singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham, after he was made a Knight Bachelor at an investiture ceremony at the Windsor Castle in England on Tuesday. AP/PTI

UK govt to make protests outside homes of public officials illegal

▸ Britain will introduce a new criminal offence banning protests outside the homes of elected officials, judges and local councillors, as part of wider efforts to curb harassment and intimidation in politics, Reuters reports from London.

Under the Crime and Policing Bill, police would be given powers to stop demonstrations aimed at influencing officials in their public duties or private lives, the government said on Tuesday. Those convicted could face up to six months in prison. "The level of abuse faced by those taking part in British politics is truly shocking - it's a threat to our democracy," security minister Dan Jarvis said in a statement. "People should be able to participate in our politics without fearing for their own or their family's safety." A parliamentary survey found that 96% of British lawmakers had experienced harassment, while an independent body that oversees elections in Britain said more than half of candidates in the last general election faced threats or intimidation.

Typhoon kills 26 in Philippines

▸ Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 26 people dead in the Philippines, mostly in flooding set off by the storm, which barreled across the central part of the country on Tuesday, AP/PTI reports from Manila.

Floodwaters trapped scores of people on their roofs and submerged cars. A Philippine air force helicopter with five personnel on board crashed in a separate incident in southern Agusan del Sur province while flying to help provide humanitarian assistance to provinces battered by Kalmaegi. The Super Huey chopper crashed near Loreto town, and efforts were underway to locate the air force personnel aboard, the military's Eastern Mindanao Command said in a statement. Military officials didn't immediately provide other details about the crash.

Rescuers carry a resident past cars washed away by floods at the height of Typhoon Kalmaegi in Cebu Cityon Tuesday. AFP

Canada restricts Indian students

▸ Canada's clampdown on international students has hit applicants from India particularly hard, government data shows, as what was once a preferred destination loses its allure for Indian students, Reuters reports from Toronto.

Canada lowered the number of international student permits it issues for the second year in a row in early 2025 as part of a broader effort to reduce the number of temporary migrants and address fraud related to student visas. About 74% of Indian applications for permits to study at Canadian post-secondary institutions in August - the most recent month available – were rejected, compared to about 32% in August 2023.

Threat halts flights at US airport

▸ All flights into and out of one of the United States' busiest runways were halted Tuesday due to a security threat, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Authorities were investigating a reported bomb threat involving an aircraft at Ronald Reagan National Airport in the Washington, DC, area, a law enforcement official said. The aircraft was moved to an isolated area of the airfield in line with security protocols. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they could not publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation. All other air traffic was put on hold while passengers from the affected United Airlines flight were taken off a plane, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said.

Actress Elle Fanning and actor Dimitrius Schuster Koloamatangi attend the world premiere of "Predator: Badlands" in Los Angeles on Monday. AFP

Relief for Indian-origin man who spent 43 years in US jail

PHILADELPHIA (US), AP/PTI: Two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport an Indian-origin man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned.

Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding centre in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, a legal permanent resident known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said.

An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in the US District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that the case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling.

Vedam came to the US legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence for a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on October 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no-contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20.

Former US Vice Prez Cheney dies at 84

He was the main architect of Bush-era wars

WASHINGTON, AFP

Dick Cheney (left) with George W Bush. AFP FILE

Dick Cheney, who became one of the most powerful vice presidents in US history as George W Bush's number two during 9/11 and the catastrophic wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, died on Monday. He was 84.

Cheney forged an influential role in the traditionally inconsequential job and became a major power behind the throne as Bush thrust America into the war on terror, with a dark underbelly of renditions, torture, and the Guantanamo prison site.

A hate figure to many on the left, he made a remarkable pivot toward the end of his life when he opposed Donald Trump's ultimately successful campaign to return to the White House in 2024. He voted for Trump's Democratic opponent Kamala Harris.

Cheney, also a former congressman and defence secretary, "died due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease," according to a family statement. As the 46th vice president, Cheney served two terms between 2001 and 2009.

The job is often frustrating for ambitious politicians, but Cheney's Machiavellian skills gave him considerable sway. He helped usher in an aggressive notion of executive power, believing the president should be able to operate almost unfettered by lawmakers or the courts.

Bush on Tuesday hailed his former vice president as "among the finest public servants of his generation".

Cheney presided over the Pentagon during the 1990–91 Gulf War, in which a US-led coalition evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait. His inaccurate claims that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction fuelled the drumbeat for war ahead of the 2003 US invasion. Cheney said he had no regrets over the invasion.

UN issues warning on emissions

PARIS, AFP

National commitments to slash heat-trapping pollution would limit global warming up to 2.5C this century -- nowhere near enough to avoid devastating climate impacts despite a sweep of new pledges, the UN warned Tuesday.

Scientists are in broad agreement that warming above 1.5C relative to pre-industrial times risks catastrophic consequences, and every effort must be made to stick as close as possible to this safer threshold.

But the world is set to blow past 1.5C in a matter of years and planet-warming emissions keep rising, hitting a new record high in 2024, according to a report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The sobering assessment was published just days before world leaders gather in Brazil on Thursday and Friday ahead of the COP30 climate summit in the rainforest city of Belem.

With an overshoot of 1.5C now inevitable, focus has shifted to how quickly temperatures can be returned to less-risky levels. "Our mission is simple, but not easy: make any overshoot as small and as short as possible," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday at the launch of UNEP's Emissions Gap report.

Brazil's President Lula da Silva speaks with media in Belem on Tuesday. AFP

Big polluters most responsible for the crisis have been urged to pledge faster and deeper emissions cuts to bend the curve back to 1.5C by the end of the century.

Instead, the latest round of carbon-cutting targets announced ahead of the UN climate talks "have barely moved the needle", concluded UNEP's latest assessment.

"Ambition and action are nowhere near the levels needed globally or collectively," Anne Olhoff, the report's chief scientific editor, told AFP.

'Bleak picture'

The latest assessment projects that the world's collective commitments to tackle climate change, if enacted in full, would result in 2.3C to 2.5C of warming by 2100.

That poses an unacceptable threat to the survival of nations most at risk by rising seas and extreme weather, and the global failure to rise to this challenge will loom over COP30.

Scientists have strong evidence that warming above 1.5C -- let alone a degree or more -- increases not only the intensity of hurricanes, floods and other disasters, but the likelihood of catastrophic climate tipping points.

At 1.4C above pre-industrial times, the Earth is already too warm for most tropical coral reefs to survive, while ice sheets and the Amazon rainforest could suffer severe and lasting changes below 2C, with consequences for the entire planet.

France probes Shein, rivals over underage access to porn content

PARIS, REUTERS

Online retail platforms Shein, Temu, AliExpress and Wish are being investigated in France for alleged rule breaches that include minors being able to access pornographic content via their marketplaces, the Paris prosecutor said on Tuesday.

China's Shein will open its first-ever permanent shop in the BHV department store in central Paris on Wednesday, but French Finance Minister Roland Lescure threatened a countrywide ban of the brand after a consumer watchdog spotted child-like sex dolls sold on its marketplace.

Shein spokesperson for France Quentin Ruffat told RMC radio on Tuesday that the company would do everything in its power to collaborate with the investigation, including sharing the names of vendors and buyers of the dolls, which it has now banned.

Ruffat later told BFM TV that the dolls had been on sale since October 16. "We are in the process of sacking all the offending vendors from the platform," he said. AliExpress told Reuters that similar listings had been removed from its site and that sellers who violate the platform's policies will be penalised. A Temu spokesperson said that accusations against the company were connected to minors accessing certain products on its platform.

Wish did not respond to a request for comment.

The Paris prosecutor's office said it received a complaint from the consumer watchdog known as DGCCRF and referred the case to the National Office for Minors to investigate. The companies are being investigated on suspicion of disseminating violent, pornographic or degrading messages accessible to minors, which can lead to up to three years in prison and a fine of 75,000 euros for individuals involved, the office said.

Shein and AliExpress are also being investigated over the alleged dissemination of images or representations of minors of a pornographic nature, which can lead to five years in prison and a fine of 75,000 euros, the prosecutor's office said.

Jesus, not Virgin Mary, saved the world: Vatican

VATICAN CITY, REUTERS: Jesus may have heard words of wisdom from his mother Mary, but she did not help him save the world from damnation, the Vatican said on Tuesday.

In a new decree approved by Pope Leo, the Vatican's top doctrinal office instructed the world's 1.4 billion Catholics not to refer to Mary as the "co-redeemer" of the world. Jesus alone saved the world, said the new instruction, settling an internal debate that had befuddled senior Church figures for decades, and even sparked rare open disagreement among recent popes. "It would not be appropriate to use the title 'co-redemptrix'," said the text. "This title ... (can) create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith."

Catholics believe Jesus redeemed humanity by his crucifixion and death. Church scholars have debated for centuries whether Mary, who Catholics call the Mother of God, helped Jesus save the world.

BRIGHTER THAN SUN

Star-eating black hole unleashes record-setting energetic flare

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Scientists are observing the most energetic flare ever seen emanating from a supermassive black hole, apparently caused when this celestial beast shredded and swallowed a huge star that strayed too close.

The researchers said the flare at its peak was 10 trillion times brighter than the sun. It was unleashed by a black hole roughly 300 million times the mass of the sun residing inside a faraway galaxy, about 11 billion light-years from Earth. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).

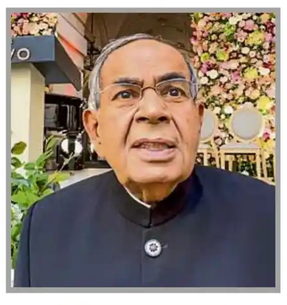
Black holes are extraordinarily dense objects with gravitational pull so strong that not even light can escape. Most galaxies are thought to have one at their center. The black hole in this research is extremely massive - more so, for instance, than the one at the center of our Milky Way that possesses roughly 4 million times the mass of the sun.

The researchers said the most likely explanation for the flare is a large star being pulled into the black hole. As material from the ill-fated star falls inward, it causes a flare of energy when it reaches the black hole's point of no return.

The researchers believe the star was at least 30 times, and perhaps up to 200 times, the mass of the sun. It may have been part of a population of stars orbiting in the vicinity of the black hole and somehow was sent too close through some interaction with another object in the neighborhood, the researchers said.

"It seems reasonable that it was involved in a collision with another more massive body in its original orbit around the supermassive black hole which essentially knocked it in," said Caltech astronomer Matthew Graham, lead author of the study in the journal Nature Astronomy.

Gopichand P Hinduja, who acquired and turned around struggling Ashok Leyland, dies



Gopichand P Hinduja
(1940-2025)

LONDON, PTI

Gopichand P Hinduja, the head of Britain's richest family, who was named as an accused in the Bofors scam with his two brothers, died in London at the age of 85.

Fondly known as 'GP' in business circles, Gopichand P Hinduja was unwell for the past few weeks and died in a London hospital, sources close to his family said.

Born in 1940, Gopichand was the second of the four Hinduja brothers who built the group into a global conglomerate, spanning automotive, energy, banking, and infrastructure. After the death of his elder brother Srichand Hinduja in 2023, he took charge as the chairman of the 35 billion pound Hinduja Group.

He is survived by his wife, Sunita, sons Sanjay and Dheeraj, and daughter, Rita.

A graduate of Jai Hind College, Mumbai (1959), Gopichand began his career in the family's trading business in Tehran before expanding its reach across continents.

Under his leadership, the group acquired Gulf Oil in 1984, closely followed by the acquisition of the then-struggling Indian automotive manufacturer, Ashok Leyland, in 1987, which was the first major NRI investment in India.

Today, Ashok Leyland is regarded as one of the most successful turnaround stories ever in Indian corporate history.

He was also the visionary behind the Group's forays into power and infrastructure sectors, spearheading the task of shaping the conglomerate's plan for building multi-GW energy generation capacity in India.

Known for his understated style and deep commitment to family values, he was honoured with an honorary Doctorate of Law from the University of Westminster and an Honorary Doctorate of Economics from Richmond College, London, as per the group's website.

He and his two other brothers - Srichand and Prakash Hinduja - were accused of receiving payments totalling Rs 64 crore in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian contract. All three were, however, exonerated by the Delhi High Court in 2005.

Gopichand Hinduja and his family retained their position as Britain's wealthiest, according to the latest *The Sunday Times* Rich List, despite a drop in their overall fortune. The Hinduja family's net worth stands at 35.3 billion pounds, down from 37.2 billion pounds the previous year.

Their UK property assets include the 67,000 square feet 18th-century Carlton House Terrace near Buckingham Palace and the historic Old War Office building in Whitehall, now home to the Raffles London hotel, which opened in September 2023 to great fanfare.

The family, however, feuded over the vast wealth. After the death of the eldest brother, Srichand, in 2023, it emerged that Gopichand and his two younger brothers - Prakash, 79, and Ashok, 74, had been fighting over the past three years with the patriarch and his daughter, Vinoo, over a 2014 letter signed by the four siblings that said assets held by one of them belonged to all.

While the family called a truce on the bitter power struggle, reports suggest they're still privately haggling on related issues.

Their father, Parmanand, founded their namesake business in 1914 in the Sindh region of British India, trading in carpets, tea and spices. In 1919, he moved from Sindh (then in India, now Pakistan) to Iran, and his sons joined as the group rapidly diversified investments, with early success distributing Bollywood films outside India.

Parmanand, who died in 1971, instilled in his sons a mantra they pledged to follow: "Everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone". The siblings, however, feuded over control of the vast business empire and have reportedly agreed to effectively dump the letter, raising the prospect of a breakup for their conglomerate.

The Hinduja empire included the only Indian-owned Swiss bank, SP Hinduja Banquee Privee, with headquarters in Geneva. Its assets include Mumbai-based lender IndusInd Bank Ltd and a property investment firm that has bought more than 250 acres of land in major Indian cities.

IndiGo flies into red; posts Rs 2,582 crore net loss in Q2

It had a profit of Rs 2,176.30 cr in the June quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI

The country's largest airline IndiGo on Tuesday reported a loss of Rs 2,582.10 crore in the September quarter as higher forex losses and expenses impacted the bottom line, and it expects to induct its first long range Airbus A321 XLR aircraft in December.

The airline, which had a loss of Rs 986.7 crore in the year-ago period, said hedging actions and more revenues in foreign currencies from international operations will help cushion the currency movements.

It had a profit of Rs 2,176.30 crore in the June quarter.

Expanding its international network, IndiGo will be bringing in more planes on damp leases, and currently, the number of aircraft on ground (AOG) is in the 40s, with Chief Financial Officer Gaurav M Negi, in an analysts call, saying the number is expected to remain range-bound till the end of the year.

"We have done very well on the operational performance," IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said during a virtual media briefing soon after announcement of the financial results.

According to a regulatory filing, InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, raked in a total income of Rs 19,599.5 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year, higher than Rs 17,759 crore recorded in the same period a year ago.

In a release, the airline said that, including the impact of currency movement pertaining to dollar-based future obligations, the net loss for the September quarter aggregated to Rs 2,582.10 crore.

"Excluding the impact of currency movement, IndiGo reported a net profit of Rs 1,03.90 crore as compared to a net loss of Rs 753.90 crore during the same period last year," it added.

The net of supplementary rentals and aircraft repair and maintenance jumped 18.9% to Rs 3,263 crore while the foreign exchange loss stood at Rs 2,892.1 crore in the latest September quarter.

In the year-ago period, foreign exchange loss was at Rs 240.6 crore.

Total expenses in the September quarter climbed 18.3% to Rs 22,081.2 crore.

"Total income for the quarter ended September 2025 was Rs 19,599.50 crore, an increase of 10.4% over the same period last year. For the quarter, our passenger ticket revenues were Rs 15,966.70 crore, an increase of 11.2% and ancillary revenues were Rs 2,141.10 crore, an increase of 14.2% compared to the same period last year," the release said.

The airline's yield or rupee earned per kilometre rose 3.2% to Rs 4.69 in the latest September quarter from Rs 4.55 in the year-ago period.

Elbers said the airline's optimised capacity deployment has enabled us to deliver a 10 per cent growth in topline revenue, excluding the impact of currency movements, an operational profit of Rs 104 crore compared to an operational loss last year.

"The year began with significant external challenges across the industry, but we saw stabilisation in July and a strong recovery through August and September. Looking ahead, we have scaled up our operational plans for the second half to meet demand and continue driving growth.

"With that, we have nudged up our capacity guidance for the full financial year 2026 to early teens growth," he said in the release.

According to him, the long range A321 XLR plane -- which will have 183 economy class seats and 12 stretch seats -- is expected to come in the second half of December.

SBI Q2 net profit jumps 6.84% on Yes Bank stake sale

The bank's overall business has touched Rs 100 lakh crore in Q2

MUMBAI, PTI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday reported a 6.84% jump in consolidated net profit for the September quarter at Rs 21,137 crore, helped by a gain of Rs 4,593 crore from its stake sale in Yes Bank.

The country's largest lender reported a 10% increase in the July-September quarter profit to Rs 20,160 crore, up from Rs 18,331 crore in the year-ago period.

Its chairman, C S Setty, said the bank's overall business has touched Rs 100 lakh crore, and it is the 43rd-largest lender globally by assets.

Despite a 12.73% growth in advances, its core net interest income grew by a muted 3.28% to Rs 42,984 crore, limited by a 0.17% compression in the net interest margin at 2.97%.

Setty said the recent moves by policymakers, including the consumption-driven GST rationalisation, government changes to income tax slabs, and relaxations by the Reserve Bank, have prompted it to upwardly revise its FY26 credit growth target to 12-14% from 11% earlier.

The bank has seen a "phenomenal" pick up in credit post the GST cut implementation, especially in the auto loans segment, Setty said.

SBI Chairperson Challa Sreenivasulu Setty addresses a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

He exuded confidence in exiting FY26 with a Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 3%, as per earlier guidance, with moves to reduce liability costs, pointing out that it was able to increase the share of low-cost current and savings account deposits to over 39%.

This means that the overall business, which includes both the assets and liabilities can grow by another Rs 5 lakh crore by the end of the fiscal, he said.

The non-interest income jumped 30% to Rs 19,919 crore on the back of the Yes Bank stake sale.

Setty said the bank has not taken any call yet on the residual stake of over 10% in Yes Bank, and added that it has made a pre-tax internal rate of return of 14% since picking up the majority stake in Yes Bank as part of the government and RBI-run efforts to rescue the troubled private sector lender in 2020.

The retail, agriculture, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) or the RAM segment led credit growth for the lender in Q2, and the segment now accounts for over RS 25 lakh crore in assets.

Corporate loan growth was subdued at 7%, restricted by factors such as prepayments by some state-run enterprises, deleveraging by cash-rich corporates, and capital-market funds raised through IPOs being used to retire debt, he said.

Setty said the bank may have to relook at current loan growth and NIM targets if the Reserve Bank delivers another rate cut in December or February. In its base case, the house view in SBI is of a status quo in December, he added.

The bank has a pipeline of Rs 7 lakh crore in sanctioned loans or proposals under discussion, which will ensure corporate loan growth of over 10% in H2FY26, Setty said.

Its managing director, Ashwini Kumar Tewari, added that the pipeline is evenly split between term loans and working capital loans.

Centre committed to meet 4.4% fiscal deficit target in FY26: FM

GYANENDRA KESHARI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government is confident to meet the fiscal deficit target of 4.4% in the current financial year as announced in the budget presented in February, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

Reiterating the centre's commitment to fiscal discipline, Sitharaman said the government would shift its focus to improving the debt-to-GDP ratio from the next financial year onwards.

In the Union Budget 2025-26, presented on February 1, the Finance Minister pegged the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at Rs 15.69 lakh crore, which is 4.4% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). In the year ended March 2025, the country's fiscal deficit stood at 4.8% of GDP. Fiscal deficit shows the gap between the government's income and expenditure.

Nirmala Sitharaman

Delivering a lecture at the Delhi School of Economics, Sitharaman said fiscal discipline and targeted spending remain essential for long-term stability of the economy. She admitted that states were facing pressure due to rising committed expenditure and welfare outlays.

She pointed out that India has moved from being the 10th largest economy in 2014 to the 5th largest and would soon become the third largest economy.

"We are at a time when India is moving fast on so many different parameters, largely economic. Of course, India and its population, India and its location on the global map have strategic significance. But India stands together today and stands tall and distinct on its feet because of its economic strength," she said.

Sitharaman said that India's strong focus on capital expenditure has yielded visible results.

"We should not be swayed by those who say our economy is not up to the mark. Who can ever tell a nation of 140 crore people that we are a dead economy? It is alright for people from outside to taunt us, but we within the country should never decry the efforts and achievements of our own people," the Finance Minister said.

Amid growing economic tensions after announcing the imposition of high tariffs US President Donald Trump called India a "dead economy".

Centre launches 3rd round of PLI scheme for specialty steel

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Monday launched the third round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme named 'PLI 1.2' for specialty steel to attract investment in the sector, as part of its objective to boost domestic output and reduce imports.

The scheme with a total outlay of Rs 6,322 crore aims to add about 26 million tonnes of speciality steel capacity over the next few years.

Kumaraswamy said that the PLI scheme for specialty steel was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2021 to encourage production of high-value, high-grade steels used in sectors such as defence, aerospace, energy, automobiles, and infrastructure.

"It will attract new investments in emerging and advanced categories such as super alloys, CRGO steel, stainless steel long and flat products, titanium alloys, and coated steels, materials that are essential for next-generation industrial and defence applications," he added.

"So far, the PLI scheme has attracted investment commitments worth Rs 43,874 crore... and is expected to add 14.3 million tonnes of new speciality steel capacity in India," Kumaraswamy said.

Kumaraswamy

According to the latest data, as of September 2025, companies participating in the first two rounds have already invested Rs 22,973 crore and generated 13,284 jobs.

"The response to the first two rounds has been highly encouraging. The success demonstrates the strength of India's reform-oriented and industry-driven policy framework," the minister said.

The third round will also open up new avenues for both existing and new players, including MSMEs, who have expanded or upgraded their investment plans after the earlier rounds.

When asked about the expected investment in the third round, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said it would be known over the next few months. He said there have been some relaxations in the current third round of this scheme to encourage investors.

GST rate cut boosts Bajaj Finance festive loans by 27%

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Bajaj Finance, the leading player in small-ticket consumer loans, on Tuesday said its lending during the festive season of Navratri and Diwali surged by 27% as GST rate rationalisation boosted consumption.

"The government's next generation GST reforms and personal income tax changes have given a fresh push to India's consumption-led growth story," said Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman, Bajaj Finance.

The company's loan volume during the festive season this year was 27% higher when compared with the last year while the loan value was 29% higher year-on-year.

The rise in consumption credit, represented by loans for consumer goods, reflects the positive outcome of the government's next generation GST reforms and changes in personal income tax, aimed at increasing consumers' purchasing power, Bajaj Finance said in a statement.

Bajaj Finance disbursed nearly 63 lakh loans from September 22 to October 26, 2025. During this period, the company acquired 23 lakh new customers, of which 52% were new-to-credit.

"Over half of our new customers during this festive season are new-to-credit, taking their first loan from the formal financial system," said Bajaj.

MD of Hyundai Motor India Ltd Unsoo Kim, Whole-Time Director & COO, Tarun Garg, and ED, Sales, Marketing and Service, JT Park at the launch of 2025 Hyundai Venue. PTI PHOTO

Hyundai rolls out new 'Venue' from Pune plant

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Hyundai Motor India on Tuesday launched its second-generation compact SUV model 'Venue', which marks the rolling out of production from its Pune plant.

Tarun Garg, Chief Operating Officer, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said Pune would serve as a global hub for the manufacturing of second-generation Venue models. The company targets to export the vehicles produced at Pune plant to around 30 countries including mostly in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

The second-generation Venue is the first in line of the company's 26 new launches proposed by 2030. "Nearly 26 new launches are upcoming for Hyundai till FY 2030 and the New Hyundai Venue is the first of the proposed lineup. Pune manufacturing facility is now live," Garg, who is MD & CEO designate of Hyundai Motor India Limited, told reporters.

Hyundai first introduced the Venue model in 2019. Garg claimed that the company has sold over 7 lakh units of the Venue model in India. The company will continue to produce its first generation Venue models in South Korea and the US. However, the second-generation models will be produced only in India.

"All-new Hyundai VENUE will now be exclusively manufactured in India for global markets," he said.

Starting price of the new Venue model is Rs 7,89,900 (ex-showroom). The company has also launched the Venue N Line variant, which has 32 unique enhancements over the old version.

"At Hyundai Motor India, our commitment to India runs deep. We have recently announced an investment of over Rs 45,000 crore, reaffirming our long-term vision for this vibrant market," said Unsoo Kim, Managing Director, Hyundai Motor India Limited.

NCLT lifts WhatsApp data-sharing ban, upholds Meta fine

BENGALUR/DELHI, REUTERS: An Indian appeals tribunal on Tuesday set aside an antitrust watchdog's five-year ban on Meta-owned WhatsApp sharing user data with other Meta entities for advertising, but upheld a fine, marking a partial win for the US tech major.

WhatsApp had challenged the Competition Commission of India's November 2024 ban on data sharing between WhatsApp and other Meta entities, warning it may have to roll back some features.

Meta also criticised the CCI for not having the "technical expertise" to understand the ramifications of its order.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) lifted the data-sharing ban, noting that "the rationale for the...ban was missing altogether".

However, it upheld the $25.4 million fine that the CCI had imposed, saying Meta abused its dominance by imposing unfair conditions.

The case began in 2021 amid criticism of WhatsApp's privacy policy changes, with the CCI's probe finding that the policy pushed users to accept the change or risk losing access to the service.

"While we evaluate the written order, we continue to reiterate that WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy update did not change the privacy of people's personal messages which remain end-to-end encrypted," a spokersperson for Meta told Reuters in an emailed response.

India is Meta's biggest market with the highest number of users on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp worldwide.

Rupee rebounds 7 paise against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee recovered from the record low level and settled with a gain of 7 paise at 88.70 against the US dollar on Tuesday, boosted by a correction in global crude oil prices.

Forex traders said a firm dollar, foreign fund outflows and subdued domestic equity markets prevented a sharp gain in the Indian currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.55 and hit the intra-day high of 88.28 against the greenback. The unit finally closed at 88.70, up 7 paise from its previous closing level. On Monday, the domestic unit, declining for the third consecutive session, ended 7 paise lower at 88.77 against the US dollar, near its all-time closing level.

Deeptech startup Tsalla Aerospace raises $1 million

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based deeptech startup Tsalla Aerospace has raised $1 million in its first external funding round. The round was led by Sunny Stalnaker, Executive Vice President of ASML, the Dutch chipmaker.

The funding is also supported by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and equity-free grants from the Ministry of Defence's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme.

Tsalla Aerospace is developing next-generation autonomous systems for defence and industrial applications. Founded in 2019 and incubated at IISc, the startup is building a hardware-agnostic AI Pilot that enables drones and unmanned platforms to operate independently even in GPS or communication-denied environments, with zero operator cognitive load. Tsalla works closely with Indian defence forces on mission-critical projects across reconnaissance, logistics, and high-risk operational scenarios.

The startup is also planning to raise $8 million in its upcoming Seed round.

Aliya: Judoka who rose from her father's wrestling pit

The Belagavi teen, top Sub-junior in Karnataka, aims to represent India and fulfill Kashim's dream

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

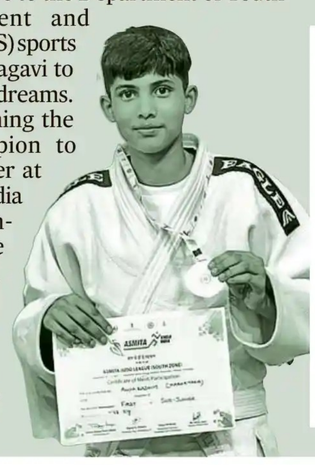
Kashim Multani was a wrestler who was both feared and respected. Making a living from his bouts in the mud-filled pits, the 'Karnataka Kesari' Kashim's biggest fan and follower was his little daughter Aliya Multani.

Kashim was also keen on making Aliya a wrestler to keep his legacy going. But another family member -- his wife Shahida's sister-in-law, Kutuja Multani who was a junior international judoka medallist -- arrived on the scene wanting Aliya to follow her sport. Suddenly, the 10-year-old was staring at a tough choice between wrestling and judo.

"Pappa wanted me to pursue *kusti*. But *maami* (aunt) wanted me to take up judo," begins the now 15-year-old. "Then all the family members decided that in *kusti* I will have to wear clothes that covers half my body but in judo the entire body will be covered. So they decided judo will suit me better," says Karnataka's top Sub-junior judoka in the 48 kg category.

The girl from a family of combat sport athletes, with natural flair and raw aggression, blended in effortlessly and won a gold medal within a few weeks of her entry into judo. A top of the podium finish at the inaugural Mini Karnataka Games in 2022 in Bengaluru kick-started Aliya's journey in the sport.

The taste of her first medal gave the youngster a direction and purpose. That's when Aliya decided to leave home in the village of Hidkal in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi district and move to the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports' (DYES) sports hostel in Belagavi to chase bigger dreams. From becoming the state champion to winning silver at the Khelo India Judo Women's League (national level event) in Trissur, Kerala, last year in the Sub-junior section, Aliya is already making a mark and carrying forward her family's sports legacy.



As her judo career began to bloom and her loved ones witnessed their youngest add medals to her father's collection, tragedy struck. In January 2023, father Kashim, who also coached wrestlers in Hidkal at his own *taalim* (training centre), passed away.

"Pappa used to wrestle and also train others. After he returned home from a competition in Mysuru, he fell ill all of a sudden one night and was hospitalised. I had just finished my practice and was back at the hostel when I received a call.

"I rushed home the next morning and reached the hospital. *Mere aane tak apna saas rokhe rahe the* (he was holding on to his breath till he saw me). *Phir*... (a heart attack took his life)," recalls Aliya. The death of her biggest supporter and inspiration was a big jolt but Kashim had left Aliya behind only after teaching his daughter all the required qualities of a good fighter.

"When she began in 2022, Aliya was raw and needed moulding. Now, after the tragedy, she is determined," tells Rohini Patel, Aliya's coach along with Kutuja at the Nehru Stadium in Belagavi.

"It was her father's dream to see Aliya fight for India at international competitions. She is really driven to achieve it," points Rohini, also a former international judoka herself.

Aliya's rock solid attitude, on the mat and off it, shines through. Without flinching, the 10th grade student of Sherman Kannada Medium School, Belagavi, reiterated her coach's words by saying: "My father is still with me. I will become an international player one day."

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE

Aliya Multani Age: 15 years

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Gold:** Khelo India Women's League (South Zone) Judo Sub-Junior, 2024
- **Silver:** Khelo India Judo Women's League (National Level), 2024
- **Gold:** Mini Karnataka Games, 2024 & 2022
- **Gold:** Cadet State Level Judo Championship, 2025
- **Gold:** State Level Judo School Games (U-17), 2025.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Long trip ahead for Chelsea

English side faces Azerbaijan's Qarabag; City host Dortmund

LONDON, REUTERS

Chelsea winger Pedro Neto will not be in their squad for the nearly 5,000-mile round trip to play Qarabag in the Champions League in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on Wednesday, manager Enzo Maresca told reporters.

Neto, who appeared to have a calf issue during Saturday's 1-0 Premier League win at Tottenham Hotspur, is being rested as a precaution as Chelsea look for their third straight win in the competition, Maresca said on Tuesday.

"Not a problem, just a small issue. We'll try to protect him. He's not involved in tomorrow's game," the coach said. "For sure, we need to rotate some of the players because I think we come back in London at 6 a.m. (0600 GMT) on Friday and then we have a game on Saturday. We'll try to adapt and do our best."

Seventh-placed Chelsea host bottom side Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League's at 2000 GMT on Saturday. Chelsea, who began their continental campaign with a loss at Bayern Munich but bounced back with wins over Benfica and Ajax Amsterdam, are 11th in the Champions League standings tied on six points with 13th-placed Qarabag.

"They (Qarabag) beat Benfica and Copenhagen. They were beating (Athletic) Bilbao and lost in the end. It'll be a tough game for sure, for different reasons," Maresca said.

The Italian was also impressed with Qarabag manager Gurban Gurbanov, who has led the club to 11 Azerbaijan Premier League titles since taking charge in 2008.

"Something I've never seen. It's unbelievable. 17 years with the same club, it's amazing," the Chelsea manager said.

Maresca added that he was not sure whether midfielder Cole Palmer would be back from his groin injury before the home match against Barcelona in the Champions League on November 25.

"(Cole) isn't taking any sessions with the team. We have (centre-back) Benoit Badiashile who can probably be available after the international break and for us that's huge news," he said.

LIVE 11:15 PM ONWARDS, SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Manchester City's Rodri (right) during a training session on the eve of their Champions League match against Borussia Dortmund in Manchester. X

Haaland vs Dortmund

Erling Haaland may be on a record-breaking scoring pace, but Manchester City's prized striker insists he is focusing on team success as he prepares to face his former club Borussia Dortmund in Wednesday's Champions League clash.

The 25-year-old Norwegian has netted 26 goals in just 16 appearances for club and country this season, putting him on track to surpass his own personal best of 57 goals in a single campaign.

"I am in a good way (to breaking that) but I don't think of this. We need to focus on tomorrow and that's how my brain works. I need to think in the present," he said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Does he think Alan Shearer's Premier League scoring record of 260 goals is within reach?

"I have to ignore (records)," Haaland reiterated. "Thinking about records I can break is the last thing on my mind, I try to help the team win football games. That is my main focus."

He also scoffed at comparisons to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, saying "no one can get close to those two."

Schedule: Qarabag vs Chelsea, Pafos vs Villarreal (both at 11:15 pm); Manchester City vs Borussia Dortmund, Newcastle vs Athletic Bilbao, Ajax vs Galatasaray, Club Brugge vs Barcelona, Benfica vs Leverkusen, Internazionale vs Kairat, Marseille vs Atalanta (all at 1:30 am - Wednesday night)

Niki to lead South Zone

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka women's team captain Niki Prasad was named captain of the South Zone team for the Senior Women's Inter-Zonal T20 Trophy which began in Sovima (Nagaland) on Tuesday.

The 15-player squad also included in-form batter Vrinda Dinesh and off-spinners Sahana Pawar and Monica Patel from the state. The latter makes a comeback to the South Zone team since playing her last international match in 2023.

26-year-old Monica took six wickets in seven games during last month's Senior Women's T20 Trophy, where Karnataka failed to make the final after finishing at the bottom in the Super League stage. Left-arm orthodox Sahana was among the strike bowlers with 14 wickets in 10 games.

Niki Prasad. X

Vrinda, however, stood out in the tournament with 316 runs (including a century and two fifties) and was the leading run-scorer from South Zone and third overall.

South Zone will take on Central Zone on Thursday, followed by West Zone (November 8), Northeast Zone (Nov 10) and East Zone (Nov 12) in the round robin stages. The top two from the stage will face off in the final on November 14.

South Zone: Niki Prasad (C), Sabbineni Meghana (VC), Kamalini G (WK), Vrinda Dinesh, Yuvashri K, Asha Sobhana, Challuru Prathyusha, Pranavi Chandra, Sahana Pawar, Sayali Anil Lonkar, Madiwala Mamatha (WK), Sajana Sajeevan, Monica Patel, Shabnam Shakil, Anusha Sundaresan.

Pradhan's century stalls Karnataka fightback

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rahul Pradhan's unbeaten century on Day 3 derailed Karnataka's early momentum as Chhattisgarh tightened their grip in the Col CK Nayudu Trophy Elite Group D clash in Mysuru on Tuesday. Pradhan's composed 107 n.o. lifted the visitors to 273/7 at stumps, extending their lead to a commanding 364 runs.

Karnataka made a bright start on the day through Dhanush Gowda (3/30), whose incisive morning spell reduced Chhattisgarh to 51/4 after they resumed at 17/0 at the SDNRW Ground.

However, Pradhan steadied the innings alongside Pratham Jachak (43) in a crucial 68-run stand for the fifth wicket, before adding 137 with skipper Deepak Yadav (75) to firmly tilt the contest.

Two quick wickets in the final session, including Dev Aditya Singh's (6) wicket off the final ball of the day by Dhanush, offered the table toppers a brief respite but with the first-innings lead already surrendered, Karnataka will need quick breakthroughs on the final day to keep their chances alive.

Brief scores: Chhattisgarh: 303 all out & (On: 14/0): 273/7 in 94.5 overs (Rahul Pradhan 107, Pratham Jachak 43, Deepak Yadav 75; Dhanush Gowda 3-30) vs Karnataka 212 all out

Haria, Gupta move into pre-quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian cueists endured mixed fortunes on the second day of the IBSF World Snooker Championships in Doha on Tuesday.

While Dhvaj Haria and Paras Gupta are one win away from making the final stage, Malkeet Singh and Hussian Khan bowed out of the first of the two-event first stage competition.

Haria, known more for his billiards prowess, outplayed Sweden's Suleman Salam 4-0 in the second round. In the first round, the southpaw carried far too many guns for the hapless Badr Abdulla Sharshani of Qatar, scoring a crushing 4-0 win. He had runs of 108 in the third frame and an 80 in the fourth.

In the pre-quarters, Haria will take on Malaysia's Thor Chuan Leong. Gupta, meanwhile, set up a last-16 meeting with Pakistan's Shahid Aftab. The Indian, who got a bye in the first round, wasted little time in disposing of the dangerous Michal Kotiuk of Poland 4-0.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Round 2: Paras Gupta bt Michal Kotiuk (Pol) 4-0 (61-14, 70-18, 85-1, 71-31); Alijalil Ali (Irq) bt Malkeet Singh 4-0 (58-49, 60-52, 57-8, 58-53); Dhvaj Haria bt Suleman Salam (Swe) 4-0 (68-23, 70-8, 79 (57) -53, 65-32); Tam Yun Fung (HKC) bt Hussain Khan 4-2.

Vikram wins gold at Mini Games

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivamogga's young weightlifter Vikram Sindhe V won the gold medal in the boys' 42kg category of the Mini Karnataka Games here on Tuesday.

Sindhe's best attempt was 40kg in the snatch followed by a 50kg lift in clean jerk (total 90kg) to grab the top spot ahead of the Dakshin Kannada duo of Dishan K (65kg) and Chirag N (60).

In boys football, Belagavi, Mysuru, Shivamogga and Hassan posted wins.

Results: Boys: Archery (Gold medallists): 30m: Adiraju Vihaan (Bengaluru) 544 pts **Athletics (Gold): Boys: 100m:** Adarsh R (Mysuru) 12.10s; High jump: Tejas Poojary (Udupi) 1.51m, Shot put: S Sudarshan (Chamarajanagara) 13.81m **Canoe & kayak (Gold):** Boys: Sub junior: K1 500m: Adyant Kumar (Bengaluru) 2:03s; Canoe slalom: Pakruddin KM (Davangere) 2.23; Kayak slalom: Vineet Naik (Uttara Kannada) 1:35 **Football:** Belagavi: 2 bt Mandya: 0; Mysuru: 3 bt Dharwad: 1; Shivamogga: 4 bt Dakshina Kannada: 0; Hassan: 3 bt Davangere: 0. **Handball:** Final: Koppala 24 bt Chitradurga: 7 **Hockey: Boys:** Hassan: 13 (Prateek R Yarakal 4 goals, Muthanna Pa 2, Dishaa Gowda 2, Likith BP 2, Amith, Rithvik, Chiranth T) bt Gadag: 0; Kalburgi: 5 (Mohammed Tousif 4, Shivaji) bt Belgavi (Srujan Vasan, Abhishek Patil 2); Ballari: 15 (Adarsh 2, Harshavardan 5, Siva, Sai 3, Ranjith, Ram Kumar, Jeevan 2) bt Bagalkot **Weightlifting (Gold):** Boys: 42kg: Vikram Sindhe V (Shivamogga) 40+50 = 90kg. 48kg: Manav Nitin Pawar (Vijayapura) 36+50 = 86. 56kg: Pratik Singh (Vijayapura) 36+45 = 81. 60kg: Ravi Vishwakarma (Dakshin Kannada) 30+40 = 70. 65kg: Nishan CM (Dakshina Kannada) 32+40 = 72. **Girls: Archery (Gold): 30m:** Spandana R (Bengaluru) 597 pts **Athletics:** Adwika KP (Dakshina Kannada) 12.90s; Padmavathi (Shivamogga) 1.40m, Javelin throw: Padmavathi (Shivamogga) 32.05m **Canoe & kayak (Gold):** Sub junior: K1 500m: Adwita Tanwani (Bengaluru) 2.13s, Canoe slalom: Dhriti Maria Pais (Bengaluru) 1:40; Kayak Slalom: Vaishnavi Ravi Bhovi (Uttara Kannada) 2:01 **Hockey:** Belgavi: 4 (Sayali Patil 3, Savani Godbole) bt Haveri: 0; Dharwad: 6 (Preethi Neelaraddi 5, Sowmya Hitlamani) bt Kodagu: 1 (Prathikshapoovamma) **Mixed: Canoe & kayak (Gold): Sub junior: K2 500m:** Lalit Sree Pranav Vundavalli/ Harini S (Bengaluru) 2:07s

K'taka's Anvay, Manikanth & Vaibhav in U-19 Challengers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Anvay Dravid, Manikanth Shivanand and Vaibhav Sharma were named two of the four squads for the Men's U19 One-Day Challenger Trophy commencing in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Wicketkeeper-batter Anvay and leg-spinning all-rouder Manikanth were named in Team C while left-arm seamer Vaibhav was included in Team B.

"The Junior Selection Committee has picked the teams for the upcoming IDFC First Bank Men's U19 One-Day Challenger Trophy to be played in Hyderabad from 5th-11th November, 2025," said a BCCI release.

SUFC edge past Real Bengaluru at Super Division League

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cris Nowang Sherpa's goal and a Josh Khumanthem Metai's own goal gave South United FC a 2-1 victory and three crucial points against FC Real Bengaluru in the KSFA Super Division League Championship here at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Tuesday.

South United's victory means they jump to fifth but still trail league leaders FC Bengaluru United by 11 points.

SUFC got off to a positive start after Cris scored in the 34th minute. Khumanthem put one in his own net in the 54th minute to double their lead. Gaithailong Rongmei, however, pulled one back, but it was too late for Real Bengaluru.

In the day's other fixtures, HAL FC played out a 2-2 draw against ASC & Centre FC, while toppers FC Bengaluru United were held to a 0-0 stalemate by Roots FC.

Results: South United FC: 2 (Cris Nowang Sherpa 41st, Josh Khumanthem Metai 54th own goal) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 1 (Gaithailong Rongmei 56th); HAL FC: 2 (Ashish Kumar 13th, MD Arshad 53rd) drew with ASC & Centre FC: 2 (Tong Bam Krishna Kanta Singh 82nd, Usham Robinson Singh 86th); FC Bengaluru United: 0 drew with Roots FC: 0.

ASC Football Club's Deepak Panth (left) and HAL Sports Club's Md Albucks battle for possession during a Super Division League championship match at BFS. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Gauff rebounds with clinical win

RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA), AFP: Coco Gauff claimed a much-needed 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jasmine Paolini to keep her WTA Finals title defence alive in Riyadh on Tuesday.

The third seed had lost her opener two days prior to Jessica Pegula but was far more clinical against Paolini, whose second singles defeat of the week means she has no chance of advancing to the semifinals.

"I'm really happy with how I played today, definitely a turnaround from my first match," said Gauff.

Ashwa Vedha for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Vedha, ridden by K Sunny Kumar, appeals most in the small field of five runners in the fray for the Rajputana Rifles Plate, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2:15 pm.

1. Ceremonial Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Veeram 1, Exhilarating 2, Reaal Stuff 3.
2. Rajputana Rifles Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Vedha 1, Ashwa Yudhvir 2, Accumulate 3.
3. Shimla Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Kangato 1, Heer 2, Dinaar 3.
4. Western Command Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Maya 1, Divya Shakti 2, Gama Wave 3.
5. Western Command Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Divine Dancer 1, Ashwa Suitan 2, Rocket Rod 3.
6. Cavalry Plate - 1100M: My Daring Bobby 1, Shahzada 2, Burning Desire 3.
Day's best: Ashwa Kangato.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Treble: 4, 5, 6.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/BGKT/TRNS/EE(C)/AEE(C)/25-26/12011-18 Date:03.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids against Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2940** for Conducting Modern detail survey for reconstruction of 110kV Bidnal-Gadag SC line constructed on H frame type structures along with conductor & Ground wire by new 110kV DC line with Panther conductor along with 110kV TBs at both ends and 110kV Annigeri LILO portion in Operation Division KPTCL Hubballi/Gadag Jurisdiction.
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto KPP Portal website **www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in** on or after **4.30 p.m. on 05.11.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 110kV Sub-Station Premises, Navanagara, Bagalkot-587103.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BENGALURU
Estate Office, GKVK

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.EO/TN/17/2025-26 DATED: 31-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement from **Eligible Architects** registered in the council of Architects as per Standard Tender Document KC6 in two cover system for the Sl. No.1. The details of the notification, schedule, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal.
The two cover system consists of technical proposal and financial proposal. The Architect should upload the following document to become eligible- 1) Architect Registration Certificate; 2) GST Certificate & GST Paid details of last 3 years; 3) General experience of Architects; 4) Similar nature of work done certificate; 5) Turnover statement of last 3 years; 6) Man power details like resumes and experience to handle the projects.
Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **19.11.2025 at 10.30 AM.** Last date and time for uploading the tender through e-Procurement is **21.11.2025 upto 4.00 p.m**. The Technical bid will be opened on **24.11.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** Financial bid will be opened on **27.11.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **9240214000/01** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765

DIPR/CP/3579/CCL/2025-26

**Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER**

Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments Department
SRI BANASHANKARI TEMPLE
S. Kariyappa Road, Bangalore - 70. Ph : 080-2671 4989.
E-mail: sribanashankaritemple@gmail.com

No.BST4/CR.02/2021-22 Date: 31.10.2025

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the order of the Hon'ble High Court and as per the instructions of the Endowment Commissioner, applications are invited from the candidates who have passed the Shaivagama Pravara Examination following the vertical and horizontal reservation for the recruitment of 03 Assistant Priests in the **Sri Banashankari Temple located on S. Kariappa Road, Bangalore.** The application should be received from the administrative office of the temple, and the self-filled applications along with the requested documents should be submitted to the Executive Officer's Office, **Sri Banashankari Temple, S. Kariappa Road, Bangalore, 5600070, at 5:30 PM on 31.11.2025** The applications received later will not be considered. For more information, contact the administrative office during office hours.

**Sd/-
Executive Officer**

|| Sri Gurubasavalingaya Namaha ||
Basava Samithi
Basava Bhavana, Sri Basaveshwara Road,
Bangalore -560 001. Phone: (080) 2226 5505, 2970 1116, 2960 5505,
Mobile: 94490 82805 , E-mail: basavasamithi.india@gmail.com

No.BS/ELN/2003/2025 Date: 05-11-2025

Notification for updation of Electoral Roll
For the Kind Attention of Basava Samithi Life Members

Some correspondence sent by Basava Samithi to its Life Members has been returned undelivered by the postal authorities due to reasons such as change of address or residence, retirement from service, or death.
In view of the forthcoming elections for the period 2025–2030, it has become necessary to update the detailed information pertaining to all Life Members.
Accordingly, Life Members are requested to provide the following details for verification and updating of the Electoral Roll:
Current address along with previous address. A copy of the Life Member's Aadhaar Card. Two recent passport-size photographs.
In the case of deceased Members, their heirs or family members are requested to furnish a copy of the Death Certificate or other relevant confirmation to that effect.
Members who have already obtained Identity Cards from Basava Samithi are requested to intimate any change of address, along with a copy of the Aadhaar Card or any valid Government address proof, so that necessary corrections can be made in our records.
The above information may be sent to Basava Samithi through any of the following modes on or before Monday, the 24th of November 2025:
(1) Postal Mail: (Basava Samithi office address)
(2) Email: **basavasamithi.india@gmail.com**
(3) **WhatsApp: 94490 82805**
Your kind cooperation in this regard is very much appreciated.

Sd/- **(Girish S. Dibbur)**
General Secretary (Admin)

IN BRIEF

MSRIT win Inter Collegiate

▸ Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) won the Inter Collegiate basketball tournament by defeating New Horizon College in the final 50-44 at KR Puram synthetic basketball courts on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Kanishka (16 points) and Adarsh (14) starred in the title win for MSRIT while New Horizon's Akash (12 points) and Sahil (10 points) saw their efforts go in vain.

Aadya shoots 5-under

▸ Aadya Kaushal from Gurugram was impressive in the third leg of the US Kids India Delhi NCR Tour as she carded a round of 5-under 67 in the girls' section for ages 9-10, at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Classic Golf and Country Club on Tuesday, reports PTI from Gurugram.

Aadya had eight birdies, including a stretch of four in a row on the front nine and another one with three in a row on the back nine. She birdied from the third to the sixth and again from the 13th to the 15th. However, Aadya also dropped three shots in her aggressive display on the second, eighth and the 10th

Trott to leave as Afg coach

▸ Former England batsman Jonathan Trott will leave as Afghanistan coach after the T20 World Cup in February-March, the country's cricket board has said, reports AFP from Kabul.

The South Africa-born, who has been in charge since 2022, took the Afghans to the T20 World Cup semifinals last year.

It was their first time in the last four of a World Cup and Trott oversaw Afghanistan's rise as a white-ball team who could challenge the best.

Moody to be LSG's GDoC

▸ Indian Premier League (IPL) side Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday appointed former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody as their global director of cricket for the upcoming season of the lucrative T20 league, reports PTI from Lucknow.

The 60-year-old Moody has had two coaching stints with Sunrisers Hyderabad. He left the franchise in 2022 when Brian Lara took over as head coach.

Ronaldo hints at retirement

LONDON, AFP: Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed he plans to retire "soon" as the Portugal and Al Nassr star prepares for a tearful end to his glittering career.

Ronaldo discussed his thoughts on retirement and his life after football in an interview with Piers Morgan Uncensored.

The 40-year-old, who has scored a remarkable 952 goals, is one of the most decorated players in the history of the game, but the end is in sight for his astonishing career.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st T20I: New Zealand vs West Indies **(11:45 am). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Pafos FC vs Villareal, Qarabag FK vs Chelsea **(both 11:15 pm)**, Club Brugge vs Barcelona, Manchester City vs. Borussia Dortmund, Newcastle United vs Athletic Club, Marseille vs Atalanta, Inter Milan vs Kairat Almaty, Benfica vs Leverkusen **(all 1:30 am, Thursday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Super Cup: Bengaluru FC vs Punjab FC: **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

K'taka drub Kerala for first win

Mohsin grabs 6/29 as visitors post innings & 164-run victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

A six-wicket haul from Mohsin Khan (6/29) triggered a batting collapse as Karnataka romped home to an innings and 164-run win over Kerala in their third Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture at the KCA Cricket Ground in Mangalapuram on Tuesday.

Kerala showed a bit of resistance on the third day after being pushed behind in the game but once the follow-on was enforced, Karnataka were far too good to not stamp their authority and take all seven points on offer.

After completing a bonus-point victory on the final day, Karnataka now sit second in their group, with 11 points from three games, behind Goa, who also are on 11 points but enjoy a superior run-quotient.

Kerala, who were fighting for a draw, began the day at 10 for no loss, needing 338 more to make Karnataka bat again or bat out the full day to take a point.

It took just two balls for Vidwath Kaverappa to land the first blow in the second over, sending MD Nidheesh (9) back to the hut. The 26-year-old struck again in the very next ball, bowling Akshay Chandran for nought.

Soon after the second wicket, Shikhar Shetty picked up his first, dismissing the Kerala skipper Mohammed Azharuddeen (15) for the second time in two days, caught off Shrijith KL.

The hosts, whose hopes were snuffed after Vidwath's double whammy, found some belief through Ahammed Imran (23) and Krishna Prasad (33), but it was only a matter of time before the hungry Karnataka attack, who were smelling an outright win, opened up an end.

The young Mohsin then joined in on the act to break the 57-run partnership, when he bowled Krishna in the 32nd over. He struck again in the 36th to claim his second, catching Ahammed off his own bowling.

At a time when it looked like Kerala would fall like nine pins, Sachin Baby (12) and Aparajith delayed the inevitable. However, Mohsin came back and struck twice in the 48th over, removing Baby and Shaun Roger (0).

Four overs later, Mohsin trapped Aparajith, who looked to take the counter-attacking route, having hit a four and a six in his 19-run stay.

Shreyas Gopal, who was putting in double shifts in their spin department to get the job done, took a back seat, but came to pick up his first, removing Vaishak Chandran (4).

The end, however, did not come quickly thereafter as the 10th wicket stand of Eden Apple Tom (39 not out) and Harikrishnan MU (6) lasted 22.4 overs but in the end, Mohsin had the former pinned leg-before for his sixth wicket.

The off-spinner finished with figures of 23.3-14-29-6 and it capped off an impressive show from the visitors.

Karnataka's Mohsin Khan picked up a career-best 6/29 to help Karnataka claim their first win of the season. DH FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings) 586/5 decl.
KERALA (I Innings) 238 all out
KERALA (II Innings f/o): Krishna Prasad b Mohsin 33, MD Nidheesh c Karun b Vidwath 9, Akshay Chandran b Vidwath 0, Mohammed Azharuddeen c Shrijith b Shikhar 15, Ahammed Imran c&b Mohsin 23, Baba Aparajith lbw Mohsin 19, Sachin Baby b Mohsin 12, Shoun Roger b Mohsin 0, Harikrishnan lbw Mohsin 6, Vaisakh Chandran c Karun b Shreyas 4, Eden Apple Tom (not out) 39. Extras (LB-12, B-2) 14. **TOTAL (all out, 79.3 overs) 184.**
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Nidheesh), 2-19 (Akshay), 3-40 (Azharuddeen), 4-97 (Krishna), 5-106 (Ahammed), 6-130 (Baby), 7-130 (Shaun), 8-135 (Aparajith), 9-140 (Vaishak)
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 13-4-28-2, Vyshak Vijaykumar 10-3-27-0, Shikhar Shetty 13-2-32-1, Shreyas Gopal 20-7-44-1, Mohsin Khan 23.3-14-29-6.
Result: Karnataka won by an innings and 164 runs. **PoM:** Karun Nair. **Karnataka: 7 points; Kerala: 0.**
Group B brief scores: New Chandigarh: Punjab: 325 all out & 179/4 in 63 overs (Harnoor Singh 49, Nehal Wadhera 55 n.o., Ramandeep Singh 36 n.o.; Darshan Misal 2-57) vs Goa (O/n: 439/3) 494/6 decl in 117 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 149, Manthan Khutkar 86, Abhinav Tejrana 131, Snehal Kauthankar 78; Ayush Goyal 3-87). **Result:** Match drawn after Goa took the first innings lead. **Goa: 3; Punjab: 1**.
Indore: Madhya Pradesh 384/8 decl & 73/3 in 27 overs (Harsh Gawli 33; Nishunk Birla 2-21) vs Chandigarh: (O/n: 236/4) 310 all out in 95 overs (Shivam Bhambri 52, Manan Vohra 52, Ankit Kaushik 59, Raj Bawa 77; Kumar Kartikeya 4-110, Aryan Pandey 3-56, Arshad Khan 3-54). **Result:** Match drawn after Madhya Pradesh took the first innings lead. **Madhya Pradesh: 3; Chandigarh: 1.**
Nasik: Saurashtra (O/n: 165/1) 394/5 decl in 101 overs (Harvik Desai 132, Jay Gohil 115, Arpit Vasavada 73 n.o., Ansh Gosai 34; Mukesh Choudhary 2-96) vs Maharashtra: 55/1 in 10 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 35 n.o.). **Result:** Match drawn. **Saurashtra: 1; Maharashtra: 1.**

Nettakallappa swim meet on Nov 8 & 9

Dhinidhi, Srihari set to headline the two-day event

BENGALURU, DHNS

The fourth edition of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition, the year-end bash with some the best Indian talent in fray, will be staged on November 8 and 9 at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC) here.

And similar to the previous edition, India's youngest Olympian at the 2024 Paris Games -- Dhinidhi Desinghu and two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj -- are expected to set the pool on fire. Several other international, national record-holders will be eager to challenge the duo who make up the 300-plus competitors to have a go at the two-day event.

The competition, known for introducing the SKINS format (for 50m events in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly) in the country since its first edition in 2022, has a cumulative purse of more than Rs 10 lakh as cash prize in the men's and women's categories. This time, two swimmers - one male and a female - who finish with the maximum points will be adjudged the 'most valuable swimmer' that carries a reward of Rs 25,000 each.

While the winners in the conventional races (100m, 400m - all in time trial format), will be awarded Rs 8,000 (gold), Rs 6,000 (silver) and Rs 4,000 (bronze), all the eight swimmers in the SKINS finals will receive cash incentives according to their final positions with the topper taking home Rs 10,000.

Apart from the SKINS and time trial formats for seniors (18 and above), Group I (15-17) and Group II (13-14) age categories, the event will also stage races for the Group III (11-12) girls and boys for the first time.

Former national coach and Dronacharya awardee Pradeep Kumar will be the chief guest during the opening ceremony on Nov 8 at 4:30 pm.

(From left) Vinod Kumar (Operations Manager), Sharath Chandra (lead coach), Varun Nijhawan (Head - NAC), Anil Nair (General Manager, KN Guruswamy Trust), Ankush Kanbarkar (lead coach), Jijeesh Jayan (Senior Supervisor, NAC) during a press conference to announce the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition on November 8 & 9 at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Pranav, Erigaisi post wins

MANISHA MOHITE

Most of the top-rated players, including World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh and other Indians, struggled to exert their supremacy, having to stay content with draws against lesser fancied opponents in the first game of the second round of the FIDE World Cup in Goa.

Reigning World Junior Champion Pranav Venkatesh brought some cheer to the Indian camp by defeating higher-rated GM Aryan Tari of Norway while Arjun Erigaisi began his campaign with a victory.

Arjun Erigaisi kicked off his campaign with a win over Bulgaria's Martin Petrov at the FIDE World Cup.

R Praggnanandhaa also had to settle for a hard-fought draw while Anish Giri, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Wesley So, Hans Nieman, Vidit Gujrathi were some of the top guns whose encounters ended in deadlock.

Gukesh played the English Opening against Nogerbek and there were times when he appeared in better position. Nogerbek defended stubbornly to finally earn half a point after 84 moves with just both the Kings gracing the board.

Child prodigy 12-year-old Oro Faustino of Argentina, dubbed the 'Messi of Chess' held higher-rated Vidit Gujrathi to a draw.

In other important results Sam Shankland defeated former World Championship finalist Vassily Ivanchuk with the black pieces.

Aryan Tari opened the English way against Pranav and his knight moved many times during the Opening stages. The Indian showed patience and pounced on a blunder by his opponent on the 40th turn. Pranav's pieces suddenly came to life, breaking through the castle barriers and with his queen, rooks and bishops gunning fire, Tari resigned after 41 moves.

Praggnanandhaa playing Kuybokarov, rated almost 250 points below him, in the Queen's Gambit Declined game had to watch the game going along equal lines throughout. Pragg did try all tricks for initiative till all the life was squeezed out of the position.

Results (Game 1 of round 2, only Indians): D Gukesh drew Kazybek Nogerbek (KAZ) 0.5-0.5; Martin Petrov (BUL) lt to GM Arjun Erigaisi 0-1; R Praggnanandhaa drew Temur Kuybokarov (AUS) 0.5-0.5; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) bt SuryaSekhar Ganguly 1-0; Diptayan Ghosh drew Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) 0.5-0.5; Levon Aronian (USA) bt Aronyak Ghosh 1-0; Vidit Gujrathi drew Faustino Oro (ARG) 0.5-0.5; Karthik V drew Aravindh Chithambaram 0.5-0.5; Stamatis Kourkoulos (GRE) drew Nihal Sarin 0.5-0.5; Arseniy Nesterov drew M Pentala Harikrishna 0.5-0.5; Thai Dai Van Nguyen (CZE) drew Iniyan Pa 0.5-0.5; Pouya Idani (IRI) drew GM Karthikeyan Murali 0.5-0.5; SL Narayanan drew Nikita Vitiugov (ENG) 0.5-0.5; Dmitrij Kollars (GER) drew Pranesh M 0.5-0.5; Aryan Tari (NOR) lost to Pranav Venkatesh 0-1; Robert Hovhanniyan (ARM) drew M Raunak Sadhwani 0.5-0.5.

'Frame Khel Ratna criteria for hearing-impaired athletes'

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to expeditiously frame appropriate criteria for conferring the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025 on hearing impaired sportspersons, noting that the existing criteria discriminates against them vis-a-vis para sportspersons.

The high court said the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 leaves no scope of discrimination between persons having hearing impairment vis-a-vis those having physical or locomotor disability.

However, in the context of the 'Scheme of Cash Awards for Medal Winners' in international events, lack of opportunity for deaf sportspersons has the impact of creating a discriminatory regime, it said.

Justice Sachin Datta, said the criteria be framed expeditiously to enable the deaf sportspersons to submit applications for the purpose of award, and directed that the deadlinefor submission of applications be extended suitably.

Surya fined, Rauf gets suspension

DUBAI, PTI

India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav and Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf were on Tuesday fined for "bringing the game into disrepute" during the Asia Cup in September with the latter also copping a two-ODI suspension for accumulating four demerit points during the tournament.

Haris Rauf

Rauf was handed financial penalties of 30 per cent of his match fee for two incidents in two separate games against India, leading to a two-match ban in the ODI series against South Africa that began on Tuesday. The next game is on November 6 and he will sit out of that as well. Rauf accumulated four demerit points for the two incidents which were converted into two suspension points as per ICC rules.

Suryakumar was penalised 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments supporting the Indian armed forces and showing solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack after the September 14 game between the two sides. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was also handed one demerit point for making a "plane down" gesture after yorking Rauf in the final.

In the September 14 game, Rauf was found guilty of offensive gestures depicting a plane crash, mocking the Indian military action under Operation Sindoor and alluding to the Pakistani claims that six Indian fighter jets were downed by it during the showdown. He repeated the same gesture on September 28 while fielding near the boundary line trying to instigate a group of Indian fans.

Pakistan batter Sahibzada Farhan was also handed a demerit point but Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh was let off without a fine or demerit point. In case of Farhan, he had indulged in mock gun fire celebrations after completing his fifty against India.

Injured Ashwin ruled out of BBL 15

CHENNAI, PTI: Former India cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin's much-anticipated foray into Australian Big Bash League has been stalled by a knee injury with the off-spinner ruled out of the entire season with Sydney Thunder.

Ashwin had retired from international cricket late last year and from the IPL in August 2025 to focus on playing in T20 leagues across the world, including BBL, The Hundred and SA20.

"While training in Chennai to prepare for the upcoming season, I hurt my knee. I've had a procedure, and the outcome means I'll miss BBL15. That is tough to say. I was genuinely excited to be part of this group," wrote Ashwin on Instagram.

Mandhana, Jemimah, Deepti named in ToT

DUBAI, PTI: The title-winning Indian stars expectedly dominated the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Team of the Tournament with Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma making it to the line-up announced on Tuesday.

The Indian trio played a stellar role in the team's maiden World Cup triumph. India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the summit clash on Sunday.

South Africa also have three of their players in the side, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt chosen to captain the Team of the Tournament following her sensational efforts with the bat where she amassed a whopping 571 runs at an average of 71.37 to break the record for the most runs at any single edition of the Women's World Cup.

ICC Women's WC ToT: Smriti Mandhana (India), Laura Wolvaardt (capt) (South Africa), Jemimah Rodrigues (India), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Ash Gardner (Australia), Deepti Sharma (India), Annabel Sutherland (Australia), Nadine de Klerk (South Africa), Sidra Nawaz (wk) (Pakistan), Alana King (Australia), Sophie Ecclestone (England).
12th player: Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).

Joshi to coach India A in Rising Stars Asia Cup

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi **(in pic)**, who recently joined BCCI's Centre of Excellence as the head of spin department, has been named the head coach of the Jitesh Sharma-led India A team that will take part in the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha from November 14.

Till the last edition, which India won beating Pakistan in the final in Oman last October, the tournament was referred to as the Emerging Players' Tournament.

In tune with its practice of appointing coaches at CoE for India A and India U-19 assignments, Joshi will has been handed the responsibility.

Jitesh Sharma, India's T20 wicketkeeper-batter, will lead the side while another international in pacer Vyshak Vijay Kumar and all-rounder Ramandeep Singh have also been named in the squad.

Other usual suspects are Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Priyansh Arya, Naman Dhir and Nehal Wadhera. Joshi was also a part of India A team's recent assignment against Australia A.

India A squad: Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Nehal Wadhera, Naman Dhir (VC), Suryansh Shedge, Jitesh Sharma (C) (WK), Ramandeep Singh, Harsh Dubey, Ashutosh Sharma, Yash Thakur, Gurjapneet Singh, Vijay Kumar Vyshak, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Abhisek Porel (WK), Suyash Sharma.
Stand-by Players: Gurnoor Singh Brar, Kumar Kushagra, Tanush Kotian, Sameer Rizvi, Shaik Rasheed.

Never stop dreaming: Harmanpreet

NEW DELHI, PTI

Still quite overwhelmed by emotions, India's newest World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur has recalled how picking up her sports tragic father's "big" cricket bat as a kid ignited the dream that is now a reality.

After leading India to a 52-run win over South Africa in the women's World Cup summit clash in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, Harmanpreet, in a video posted by the BCCI, recalled her childhood and also had one advice for aspiring young players -- "Never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you."

"Ever since, I was a kid, I've always had a bat in my hand. I still remember we used to play with a bat from my dad's kit bag. The bat was very big. One day, my dad carved a small bat for me out of one of his old bats. We used to play with it.

"Whenever we used to watch a match on TV, or watch India play, or watch the World Cup, I used to think, I need an opportunity like this. At that time, I didn't even know about women's cricket," Harmanpreet said as she

Harmanpreet Kaur led India to their first Women's World Cup triumph after beating South Africa in the final. X

Harmanpreet's father Harmandar Singh Bhullar dabbled in cricket and football before settling for a clerk's job at a local judicial court in Punjab's Moga, the city where she was born and brought up.

Harmanpreet also recalled the grand reception that the Indian team came back to after losing the 2017 women's World Cup final to England in London.

Team in Delhi to meet PM

The victorious Indian women's cricket team led by Harmanpreet Kaur touched down in the national capital on Tuesday evening for its meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

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